MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Israel insists that Major Sa'd Haddad command the Lebanese Army units guaranteeing security in the southern border zone, Jerusalem television reported on 27 March. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conveyed this "uncompromising" stance to U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, who will present the Israeli position to the Lebanese side on his return to Beirut on 28 March. In his talks with Shamir, Habib reported that the Lebanese continue to oppose Haddad's appointment as southern army commander but that they are prepared to continue negotions on this issue without presenting any ultimatums, the television noted. Although Lebanese sources cited by AFP disclosed earlier that Lebanon is willing to allow Israel to choose one of Haddad's seven Command Council members to head the southern security force, IDF Radio subsequently reported that Habib did not present this proposal to the Israelis. However, Habib conveyed new formulations about military cooperation to Israel indicating that if the Haddad dispute is resolved it will also be possible to reach agreement on other matters, the radio added.

After a 27 March Israeli Cabinet discussion of the Lebanon negotiations, an Israeli official affirmed that, unless progress is soon made on the Haddad question and other outstanding problems, Israel will have to review its entire position, Jerusalem radio reported. According to an IDF Radio report on the meeting, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon criticized the current conduct of the Lebanon negotiations, entering into a sharp argument with Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

PLO Affairs

Officials' Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described his 27 March talks with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as important and said they discussed the work of the Arab seven-member committee, the Middle East situation, and the Palestinian issue, SPA reported. 'Arafat noted that his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn has been postponed until after Omani Sultan Qabus' visit to Amman, but added that his talks with Husayn will deal with Palestinian-Jordanian relations, according to SPA. Earlier, 'Arafat chaired a 25 March meeting of the PLO Military Council in Tunis during which the threat of a new Israeli offensive agaisnt the Palestinian forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley was reviewed, KUNA reported. In another development PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Amman from Damascus on 27 March, Radio Monte Carlo announced.

Salah Khalaf on Jordan -- During a University of Kuwait seminar Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf criticized the rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan and asked rhetorically what King Husayn could give to the Palestinians, according to the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABUS. He added that King Husayn cannot fulfill the Palestinians' demands and said he expects that the king's talks in Washington to fail. Khalaf affirmed that the Palestinians are calling for a Palestinian state and do not want a "settlement at any price."

Jordan

Soviet, Saudi Visitors -- Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim met with Oleg Grinevskiy, Soviet Foreign Ministry Near East Department chief, on 26 March, Amman radio reported. Al-Qasim explained the Jordanian Government's position on the Palestinian question and stressed the need for a quick Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. King Husayn also met with Grinevskiy, Amman television reported on 26 March. In another development well-informed sources in Amman announced that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Jordan on 26 March with a message from King Fahd to Husayn, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Comment on Peace Process -- Although Jordan has repeatedly stated its willingness to take the risk of entering the "diplomatic quagmire" of negotiations with Israel, Jordan must decide to "play it safe" if the PLO decides against participation in such a "doomed process," a 28 March JORDAN TIMES editorial asserted. It is unfair for the United States to ask Jordan and the PLO to give impetus to the peace process while failing to wring a single concession from Israel. It is also wrong to assume that the Jordanians and Palestinians want to participate in a process "likely to complicate rather than simplify progress...toward a comprehensive peace settlement," the paper said. It concluded by stressing the need for Jordanian-Palestinian solidarity within a unified Arab position.

Israel

Communist-PLO Communique -- Members of the Israeli communist party, RAKAH, met with a PLO delegation headed by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas 23-24 March in Prague and the two sides discussed the question of promoting the struggle for the implementation of a just Middle East peace, ITIM announced on 27 March citing a joint communique issued by the Israeli communist party and the PLO. The two delegations expressed their desire to bolster and expand their political cooperation in order to achieve a just peace and RAKAH expressed its great appreciation for the work and resolutions of the recent PNC session in Algiers.

West Bank -- More than 300 female students from five schools in Janin were "poisoned" when a substance thought to be a certain type of nerve gas was spread on window sills and sprayed on the curtains in the classrooms, HA'ARETZ reported on 28 March.

Egypt

Commenting on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said the treaty has achieved its first goal, Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, except for Tabah, Cairo radio reported on 26 March. Ghali added that the treaty's second goal as a first step toward a comprehensive Middle East peace has not been achieved because of Israel's intransigence, its desire to annex the West Bank and Gaza, its annexation of the Golan Heights and east Jerusalem, and the invasion of Lebanon, the radio noted.

Syria

The USSR is "closely following" Middle East developments and supports Syria in all areas, Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stated during a 26 March meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad reported by SANA. Al-Asad affirmed his country's strong adherence to friendship with the USSR and declared that "any attempt to undermine the friendship between Syria and the USSR is only an attempt to weaken and subjugate" Syria. The president reiterated that Syria will neither succumb to pressure or blackmail and emphasized that it will fight imperialism and Zionism with all its strength, SANA added. According to Damascus radio, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm also met with Koshoyev on 26 March, although the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported on 25 March that the prime minister was admitted to a Damascus hospital on 20 March in "extremely serious" condition due to an illness. Later, Koshoyev and People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi signed a joint statement on the talks between the two parliamentary delegations, SANA reported on 27 March. Az-Zu'bi described the joint statement as an important achievement and a step toward the consolidation of bilateral relations.

Iraq

National Council Speaker Na'im Haddad and his delegation returned from a 7-day visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, INA reported on 25 March. Haddad described his talks with Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, as beneficial and fruitful and pointed out that the Soviet officials expressed their "keen desire" to deepen bilateral relations. He added that Kuznetsov stressed the importance of exerting efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war, INA noted.

Algeria

Envoy's Moscow Visit -- A presidential envoy left Moscow on 26 March after handing a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the Soviet Government, APS reported. The envoy met with Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko on 25 March and discussed Middle East issues in an atmosphere of "friendship and understanding," APS added.

Relations With Libya -- A Libyan delegation led by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud concluded a visit to Algeria during which an agreement was signed that called for intensified efforts to unite the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, coordinated action between Libya and Algeria in Africa and in the OAU, and continued bilateral contacts at all levels, JANA reported on 27 March. During the visit Jallud held a lengthy meeting with President Bendjedid, JANA added.

Spanish Official's Visit -- During a 22-25 March visit by Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra, the two sides affirmed that a just and peaceful solution to the Western Sahara question is based on respecting UN and OAU resolutions as well as on the Saharan people's right to self-determination, Algiers radio reported on 25 March citing a joint communique.

Afghanistan

Soviet-Afghan troops launched a major operation in Balkh Province and Soviet tanks reportedly encircled a number of Mazar-e Sharif suburbs while Soviet gunships bombed rural areas, Karachi radio reported on 26 March. According to reports from Afghanistan, "mujahidin" attacked a convoy near Mazar-e Sharif and killed 45 Soviet-Afghan troops, the radio added.

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS INFORMATION, MILITARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

LD261833 Kuwait KUNA in English 1614 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 26 (KUNA) -- PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat chaired two seperate meetings here last night of the Higher Information and Military Councils to discuss the overall political and military situation inside the occupied lands.

Informed Palestinian sources stated Saturday that the meetings adopted a number of positive and important decisions. Without elaborating, the sources said that the Information Council has discussed means to confront Israel's expansionist and aggresive policies against the Palestinian Arab people in and outside the occupied land.

The meeting of the Military Council, which was attended by PLO deputy commander-in-chief Khalil al-Wazir and other officers, has reviewed preparations taken by Palestinian forces in the light of the war crimes made by political and military leaders in Israel threatening a fresh offensive against Palestinian troops stationed in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley, these sources said. They concluded that the issue of uniting all Palestinian fighters in the Palestine National Liberation' Army was also raised during the meeting.

BAGHDAD VOICE OF PLO ON RAKAH-PLO PRAGUE TALKS

JN271758 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that a meeting was held in Prague recently between a PLO delegation and a delegation of the Israel communist party, RAKAH. Our correspondent says that RAKAH reiterated its demands for Israeli forces withdrawal from all the territories occupied after 1967 and supported the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. He said that the Israeli delegation expressed appreciation for the resolutions and recommendations of the 16th PNC session held in Algiers recently. The correspondent pointed out that the two sides adopted the Arab peace plan which was approved by the Arab Fes summit.

The Palestinian side was led by brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member. The RAKAH delegation included Emile Habibi, Samih al-Qasim, (Eden Kubenstien), and (Samar Johansker).

EASTER VISITS FOR ISRAELI POW'S ENVISAGED

AU280920 Vienna KURIER in German 27 Mar 83 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Easter Visit for Eight Israelis: Is Kreisky Helping?"]

[Text] To date the big POW exchange between Israel and the PLO has not succeeded. Now, however, a minor interim success is being worked upon -- reportedly with the help of Austrian Chancellor or Bruno Kreisky: The PLO intends to let the families of the eight Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestinians pay an Easter visit to these POW's. Their only conditions: Israeli authorities are to publish an official communique about it.

It is not known where this meeting is to take place.

Only a few days ago, outgoing Israeli Chief of Staff Eytan declared that there are "new hopes" for the big POW exchange that is to take place in Austria.

KUNA: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET 28 MARCH

LD261919 Kuwait KUNA in English 1617 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 26 (KUNA) -- The Arab League Council will hold its 79th ordinary session coming Monday to discuss a number of political and economic issues, it was formally announced Saturday. The Council's upcoming session is expected to be largely dominated by issues such as Israeli settlements and practices against civilian population in Arab occupied lands in addition to the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon following the Zionist invasion of that country.

The Arab League will also review Afro-Arab cooperation, active participation in the second international conference on fighting apartheid and racial discrimination beside Arab candidatures for U.N. posts and other specialized agencies.

SALAH KHALAF COMMENTS ON TOPICAL ISSUES

Fes Plan, Israeli Discord

GF251742 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 24 Mar 83 p 7

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, by AL-WATAN correspondent Rashidah Saydam -- date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you believe that the Fes plan, which was approved by the PNC recently, will become ineffective once this period is over? Does the Palestinian revolution deal with this plan as it is in terms of the struggle or through its basic principles?

[Answer] The Fes resolutions are an Arab choice and not a Palestinian one. In our view the Fes summit reflected the present Arab impotence. The Arabs are unable to offer more than this program at this stage, which is chacterized by the absence of Egypt and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

We, the PLO, accepted this plan for the time being because it represents the present power in the Arab world.

Once this changed at any time due to Egypt's return to the Arabs or when the Gulf war, which exhausts Arab power, ends, we can develop the Fes plan toward what is best.

The Fes decision is not our goal; our primary goal is to establish our Palestinian state in all of Palestine. Thus, on this basis, we are against Fes and against Reagan's plan. However, while the latter does not provide the minimum level of the Palestinian people's hopes, the first plan mentions the Palestinian state and the right to self-determination and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Question] What are the positive results achieved by Yasir 'Arafat's recent meetings with the Israeli "Peace Now" movement on the level of hitting the Zionist arena internally? Does this affect the Palestinian position internally?

[Answer] Just like any other revolution in the world, the Palestinian revolution must have a program that covers both the political and military sectors. It must plan how to infiltrate the enemy's front. The Jew is not a sophisticated human being who is difficult to reach. He is an ordinary human being who can be reached and it is thus easy to infiltrate his front.

In my opinion we must develop, encourage, and talk with any faction in Israel that believes in the existance of the Palestinian people and in their right to have a Palestinian state. We must not confine dialogue to a certain type of Jew; rather we must establish a dialogue with all of them if possible. In order to prevent any confusion, we decided that we must determine with whom to meet and determine the party that deserves to be met, provided the appropriate time for such a meeting is determined too.

The results of the meetings with Israel are long-term results rather than short-term. I believe this meeting affected the enemy's front when it created internal conflicts between individuals. This recently led to the killing of more than one person and the wounding of others by the Zionists themselves. This is also evident from the repetitive huge demonstrations against Begin and his government. The Jewish youth currents have started emerging to declare the existance of a wronged Palestinian people. Included among these were some of the Israeli pilots who fought in Lebanon and described themselves as savage as a result of their intense bombardment of the civilians there. I would like to note that for the first time in an Arab-Israel war the Israeli society was not united by the slogan: "support your brother whether he is right or wrong." On the contrary, huge numbers of people demonstrated during the war and shouted slogans against it. The legend of the indestructible Israeli army was destroyed in the Lebanese war. It appeared worn when it stood at Beirut's gates unable to advance although it had all its military power.

Thus, as a Palestinian revolution, we must encourage any disruption and any conflict that occurs within the Israeli society because this may score a victory for us.

Relations With Jordan

GF261650 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has said that the campaign against the PLO will intensify in the coming period as a result of its refusal to accept the proposed plans for a settlement.

During a meeting with Palestinian university professors and researchers [in Kuwait] on 24 March, Abu Iyad said: "Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will carry with him the resolutions of the PNC to Amman and inform King Husayn about these resolutions so that the Palestinians will not bear the responsibility of his failure in the coming stage."

Abu Iyad said that King Husayn could not guarantee the achievement of Palestinian demands. He said: "The reason for the collapse of the Arab situation is As-Sadat's stand toward Israel." He asserted that if the situation between the Palestinian resistance and Syria was good "what is not happening on the Arab arena would not have happened." He added: "It is for this reason that the Palestinian leadership is seeking to resolve its problems with Syria, and with any ally who calls for the liberation of a Palestinian village and is seeking to establish a foothold in the international arena."

In a speech he delivered at the PLO office in Hawalli, Abu Iyad asserted that neither time, the building of settlements, nor the [U.S.] elections frighten the Palestinian leadership or make it acquiesce to any situation at any price. He said that the malaise lies in the weakness of the Arabs, which has led to political, military, and economic defeats. He predicted that the price of oil will fall to $18 in 1983.

At the beginning of his speech Abu Iyad referred to a "funny equation" and said: "The world and the Arabs are trying to push us toward this equation, that is, the notion that King Husayn's stand is linked to the Palestinian stand." He asked: What will King Husayn's stand offer to the Palestinians? What compromises can the Palestinians make?

Abu Iyad declared: "Others are trying to represent the issue within the context of this unacceptable equation, whereas the Palestinians are calling for a free and independent Palestinian state that has its own prestige, entity, and representatives. The Palestinians do not want to be hasty in their quest for a solution, nor do they want a solution at any price. Treason cannot produce a solution that will lead to a homeland, an entity, and a state that will make its mark on history."

Referring to Arab and international pressure on the Palestinians, Abu Iyad said: We will not succumb to terrorism and pressure. We are pursuing a realistic path according to our concept and not according to the U.S. concept, which asks us to surrender to the U.S. view of realism. Abu Iyad asked: If we should take the path of treason what will we gain? What will they give us? He answered: "They want Palestinian approval without giving the Palestinians anything." Abu Iyad asked: What is the alternative to capitulation?

Abu Iyad called for building a strong base for which the PLO is responsible, and urged the Palestinians to work on all fronts to win supporters for the realism which they want and to win new ground in the international arena.

Abu Iyad expressed great optimism about the future and said that the present ebb in the Arab situation is bound to be followed by a flow. What is important is that we should not betray, forfeit our rights, sign, or recognize, and what is also important is that we should not remain idle, he said.

Abu Iyad reiterated the call for a Palestinian state that represents all the Palestinians in the world, a state to which any Palestinian could go. He rejected U.S. ideas that the state should be the representative of only the Palestinians in Palestine.

Referring to the Palestinian future, Abu Iyad said that he "will continue to struggle and to call for a free and independent state that represents all the Palestinians."

Abu Iyad declared: "A special committee has been working for 5 months to assess the battles of Beirut and Lebanon against the Zionist enemy. The committee is expected to complete its work next month when three tasks are clarified: the assessment of the battle; discussion of the situation that existed before the battle; drawing up views of the future."

Abu Iyad criticized the Arab situation and asserted that Arab weakness will lead to what is worse, and that this will enable Israel to demolish Al-Asqa Mosque and build Solomon's temple in its place. The Arabs will not be able to do anything so long as they talk about the resolutions of the Fes summit with their eyes on the Reagan plan and as long as they do not respect their resolutions.

Abu Iyad assailed the Camp David accords, As-Sadat, and the campaign of hatred which Husni Mubarak is leading against the Palestinian people. He said that Husni Mubarak is taking the U.S.-Israeli line to hide the Egyptian stand by this sudden campaign so as to perpetuate As-Sadat's policy and so that no one in Egypt will act against that policy. He said that the Camp David accord is not a piece of paper but a policy and an integrated plan of action. Abu Iyad asserted that the precedent created by As-Sadat has now led many Arabs to follow the same path and ask for the approval of Husni Mubarak, Israel, and the United States instead of acting to change the balance of power to their favor.

In conclusion Abu Iyad said that Lebanon will not pay the exorbitant price that Egypt paid to bring about an Israeli withdrawal. He said that this does not mean that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon all that easily.

Relations With Egypt

JN251644 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has denied a statement attributed to him on the restoration of relations with Egypt. He asserted that, as a precondition for restoration of relations with Egypt, the PLO demands that Egypt renounce the Camp David agreements in accordance with the resolutions of the recent PNC meeting which was held in Algiers.

A Saudi newspaper attributed a statement to Abu Iyad in which he said that the renuniation of Camp David is not a precondition for restoration of relations with Egypt.

SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL CRITICIZES U.S. POLICIES

JN270802 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[By Lamis Andoni]

[Text] Amman -- A recent meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee was highly critical of American policies "which block a comprehensive settlement" for the Middle East conflict, a senior PLO official said here Saturday.

'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, who is in Amman after attending the committee meeting held in Tunis last week, said that "despite the bitter experience which the PLO had with the American Administration, particularly in Lebanon, the resolutions adopted by Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers have kept the door wide open to any political settlement "which fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinians to statehood and self-determination."

The PLO, Mr. Ahmad said, was hoping that the U.S. will adopt "more serious and sincere political moves towards finding a just and durable solution" for the Middle East conflict. "However, the American Administration kept itself hostage to its own narrow interests in the area, ignoring Arab aspirations which were expressed in the peace plan adopted at last September's Arab summit in Fes," he said.

The PLO "responded positively" to these aspirations and endorsed the Arab peace plan, "because it believed that this step will be welcomed by all peace-loving parties," the PLO Executive Committee member added.

"But, the American Adminstration did not take any practical steps further than the Reagan plan announced last September."

"The PLO rejects any initiative that infringes upon the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including the right to an independent Palestinian state and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people," Mr. Ahmad added.

Mr Ahmad, a member of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee formed last November, said the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis reaffirmed support for the ongoing dialogue between Jordan and PLO. "Jordanian-Palestinian relations constitute the basis for any future political moves in efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem," Mr Ahmad said.

"Any attempt to cast suspicion over this relationship serves only the interests of those who conspire against the Palestinian people and inflicts damage on the Arab struggle for unity in general," he said.

The Tunis meeting, Mr Ahmad said, also reaffirmed the PLO's determination to realise Arab solidarity which will "enhance the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and their joint struggle for the liberation of the occupied territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

"The PLO's concern and determination to reinforce Arab solidarity was manifested in the special role the Organisation, particularly Chairman Yasir 'Arafat undertook at the non-aligned summit in Delhi last month," Mr Ahmad said.

Mr 'Arafat helped break a stalemate at the conclusion of the summit by mediating between Iran and Iraq over the wordings of a non-aligned communique on the Gulf war. The formal closure of the summit was delayed for more than 18 hours over the issue and Mr 'Arafat shuttled between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations and succeeded in securing their approval of the communique.

In its meeting in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee, convening for the first time after the PNC session, also discussed the organisation's relations with Egypt, which were severed after Cairo signed the 1979 Camp David accords with Israel.

"The committee expressed its regret at Egyptian accusations of PLO interference in Egypt's domestic affairs," Mr Ahmad said.

The accusations levelled by the Egyptian officials were believed to be the reason that prevented a meeting between Mr 'Arafat and Mr Mubarak during the nonaligned summit in Delhi.

"The Executive Committee rejected such accusations, especially that it is and has always been against intervening in the domestic affairs of any Arab country," Mr Ahmad said.

The committee however decided not to engage itself in a war of words with the Egyptian Government "because it will not serve the cause of Arab unity, especially at this crucial stage of the struggle," Mr Ahmad said.

Mr Ahmad reiterated the PLO position that Egypt should return to the Arab world "entangling itself from the chains imposed on it by the Camp David accords."

The Palestinian leader, who had the JORDAN TIMES before leaving for Tunis to attend the committee meetings that the meeting would issue a memorandum on the PNC resolutions. [fragment as published] However, the final statement issued by the Tunis meeting did not mention such a memorandum because "the committee was not able to prepare it because of limitations of time," Mr Ahmad concluded.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC MEETING PREDICTED FOR MID-APRIL

GF261342 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 25 Mar 83 p 1

[Kamal Hazir dispatch from Kuwait]

[Text] Informed Gulf sources have expressed the conviction that the current contacts between the GCC countries are intended to prepare for a Gulf summit at the prime minister level. The sources noted that the messages which Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has sent to His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; the Bahraini heir apparent; the Qatari heir apparent; and Abu Dhabi heir apparent -- which included invitations to visit Kuwait -- prove the inclination of these officials to meet in Kuwait in mid-April.

The sources said the meeting of the GCC prime ministers will be devoted to discussing the accomplishments of their countries under the GCC and the general outline of the Gulf position on some issues, mainly the Iraq-Iran war and the Lebanon and Palestine issues.

It should be noted that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah, Kuwaiti prime minister, recently sent messages to his GCC counterparts inviting them to visit Kuwait.

More on GCC Meetings

GF271426 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Quoting Gulf diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi, QNA reports that preparations are underway to hold a series of important Gulf meetings next month. The sources said some of these meetings will be at the bilaterial summit level, some at the level of heirs apparent and prime minister, and others at the level of the ministers concerned.

The sources added that the aim of these Gulf meetings will be to consolidate existing cooperation among the GCC countries in various fields, particularly political, economic, and security ones. They also aim at exchanging views on the developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, especially efforts being exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

LABOR UNDER SECRETARIES RESUME MEETING IN RIYADH

LD272332 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, March 26, SPA -- Labour and social affairs under-secretaries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) resumed their meeting here tonight.

The participants will complete discussions on items on the meeting's agenda including the unification of social organisations extending social aid to the Gulf citizens and setting up joint housing projects in the region. The under-secretaries started their parley earlier today.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the U.A.E. and Oman.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT LEAVES FOR UK, U.S. VISIT

GF261116 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) -- Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, left Manama today for London on a working visit to the United Kingdom. This will be followed by a 1-week official visit to the United States.

Upon departure, he was seen off by amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and senior Bahraini military and civilian officials.

Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah will hold talks with officials in the two countries focusing on bilateral relations, means of bolstering them, and on current Arab developments particularly those dealing with Middle East issues and the Palestinian issue.

He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chief of his office Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad, the ambassador at the Foreign Affairs Ministry 'Abd al-'Aziz Abu 'Ali, and a number of officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN RIYADH FOR MEETINGS 27 MARCH

LD270927 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0922 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Mar (SPA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Riyadh this morning for a visit to the Kingdom, during which he is to have meetings with a number of senior officials.

Meets With King Fahd

LD271603 Riyadh SPA in Arabis 1522 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Mar (SPA) -- This evening, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. Mr 'Arafat arrived in Riyadh this morning.

'Arafat Statement Reported

LD272127 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2028 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Mar (SPA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described his talks with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today as important as they dealt with a number of issues including the work of the Arab seven-member committee which will meet in Fes on 3 April, developments in the Arab area including events in the occupied areas, and the upsurge in popular uprisings.

In a statement to SPA, he added that he discussed with his majesty the king a number of incidental questions, the situation in the area in general, and the Palestinian issue and its developments in all aspects.

'Arafat noted that his meeting with King Husayn of Jordan has been postponed as a result of King Husayn's preoccupation with the visit by Omani Sultan Qabus and that it was agreed that the meeting would take place after the conclusion of the sultan's visit. He said that this meeting will deal with Palestinian-Jordanian relations and their dimensions from various future aspects.

More on 'Arafat Visit

NC272044 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, March 27 (AFP) -- Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chief Yasir 'Arafat arrived here today from Fes, Morocco, and had a meeting with King Fahd at which the Saudi foreign minister, Prince al-Faysal, was also present.

Afterward Mr 'Arafat said they had discussed the meeting of the Arab League committee of seven, to be held on April 3 and 4 in Fes, and the situation of the Palestinians in south Lebanon.

Mr 'Arafat was to have gone on to Amman from Riyadh today, but he said his visit had been put back 48 hours because of the visit that Sultan Qabus of Oman will make to Jordan on Tuesday.

Mr 'Arafat said that a Palestinian delegation led by the head of the PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, arrived in Jordan today to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian relations with Palestinian leaders.

Well-informed sources, meanwhile, said that Prince al-Faysal, who yesterday made a brief visit to Jordan, told two Palestinian leaders here last Wednesday that Saudi Arabia "will help eliminate the obstacles said to be blocking Jordanian-Palestinian coordination."

Prince al-Faysal also told them that Saudi Arabia was in no way trying to put pressure on the PLO, but did not want to give Israel the opportunity to pin on the Arab countries responsibility for any breakdown of peace negotiations in the extension of the Reagan plan for peace in the Middle East.

Monte Carlo Report

JN271752 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Riyadh 'Abdallah ash-Shihri -- recorded]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Riyadh this morning on a short visit to Saudi Arabia, the duration of which is yet not known. Thirty minutes from now, 'Arafat will meet with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Saudi Royal Court sources have noted that 'Arafat's talks with Saudi officials will touch on a number of important issues, foremost being Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the Palestinian position on the [Middle East] negotiations. Indications are that these negotiations will top the upcoming talks between 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn.

A ranking Saudi official has told Radio Monte Carlo that the Saudi position has not changed and is compatible with what is acceptable to the PLO and the Palestinians. When I asked him about his country's position in the event negotiations take place, between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides on the one hand and the Israeli side on the other, he said: This matter concerns the Palestinians alone and they alone have the right to answer such a question. What is important is the return of all the occupied Arab territories, foremost being Jerusalem.

The Saudi-Palestinian talks will also deal with the outcome of 'Arafat's recent tour and with the African tour 'Arafat will make next month.

Departs 28 March

LD280824 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0735 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Riyadh this morning after a short visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off by Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy governor of Riyadh and a representative of royal protocol, and Rafiq an-Natsham, PLO representative in the Kingdom.

UAE

AL-FAJR ON IRAQI OPERATIONS NEAR NOWRUZ OIL FIELD

GF271332 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0380 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 Mar (WAKH) -- The UAE paper AL-FAJR has carried a report from Baghdad saying that the Iraqi [military] command made a decision to unilaterally suspend military operations in the Gulf waters near the Iranian oil field of Nowruz. This was in order to permit repair of the oil field, from which oil has been leaking in huge quantities, to halt pollution of the Gulf waters and coasts.

The paper quoted an Iraqi source as saying that the decision to unilaterally suspend military operations stems from the cooperation with the regional organization for the protection of marine environment.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES SOVIET NAVAL COMMANDER 25 MAR

GF251651 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, at noon today received comrade Fleet Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the Soviet naval fleet.

During the meeting, and in a friendly atmosphere, issues of interest to both friendly countries and relations between them were discussed. Views on the development of the Arab and international situations and on dangers to the region's people, due to the hostile inclination of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary circles, were exchanged. The importance of bolstering the ties of cooperation and friendship between the parties, governments, and peoples of both countries, in accordance with the friendship and cooperation treaty between them, was stressed.

Delegations Conclude Talks

GF271614 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The official talks between the PDRY military delegation, led by Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and the Soviet military delegation, led by Soviet Fleet Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the naval forces, that is currently visiting our country, concluded today.

The talks, which began on Wednesday, were held in an amicable atmosphere and dealt with bilateral relations, peoples and their armed forces, and with an exchange of views that aim at the development of these relations and other issues of mutual interest.

After the meeting, the two sides expressed their great satisfaction with the similarity of their views on issues that concern and were discussed by the two sides.

Soviet Leaders Send Message

GF271420 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received a message from the Soviet leaders today.

ANA reported that the message deals with a number of issues which concern the two friendly countries and the means to strengthen and develop bilateral relations.

The message was delivered during Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's meeting with the Soviet charge d'affaires in Aden.

TASS DIRECTOR GENERAL LOSEV DEPARTS 26 MARCH

GF261725 Aden ANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Aden, 26 Mar (ANA) -- Sergey Losev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, and director general of TASS, left Aden today at the end of a visit that lasted several days. During the visit, he met with ANA officials and discussed with them the strengthening and development of relations between ANA and TASS in various fields.

LIBYAN PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

GF251757 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning Fawzi ash-Shakshuki arrived in Aden today at the head of a delegation on a visit to the PDRY that will last several days. During his visit, Ash-Shakshuki will meet with PDRY officials to discuss cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

In a statement to ANA on his arrival, Ash-Shakshuki said the purpose of the visit is to take part in the meetings of the PDRY-Libyan joint economic committee scheduled to be held in Aden on 26 March to discuss PDRY-Libyan economic cooperation.

Ash-Shakshuki was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, industry minister and candidate member of the YSP Central Committee; Salim Muhammad Husayn, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Aden; and Industry Ministry officials.

GHALI COMMENTS ON 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE TREATY

Cairo Radio Report

NC261540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt will do its utmost to surmount the obstacles hindering the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the Middle East, because this was the real goal of signing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In a statement to one of our correspondents on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Ghali said that the treaty has achieved its first goal -- Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, except for Tabah.

As for the treaty's second goal -- that the treaty be the first step toward a comprehensive and lasting peace -- it has not been achieved because of Israel's intransigence, its desire to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and such actions as its annexation of the Golan Heights and east Jerusalem and the aggression on Lebanon. Ghali expressed his hope that agreement will be reached between Jordan and the Palestinians so that Jordan can make moves within U.S. President Reagan's initiative.

AL-AKHBAR Interview

NC262302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that Israel has attempted and is still attempting to evade peace by establishing settlements, by annexing Arab Jerusalem, by the ugly massacres in Sabra and Shatila, by occupying Lebanon, and by continuing its occupation of the Golan.

In an interview given to the newspaper AL-AKHBAR on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty, which the paper will publish tomorrow, Sunday, Dr Ghali said that Egypt wants a comprehensive and just peace for all parties in the area. It does not want a separate solution, and it will not forsake any Arab or Palestinian right. He said: We perceive in the treaty a first step along this road.

Dr Ghali demanded that Israel abandon the policy of annexing the occupied Arab territories and leave Lebanon. He also demanded that the Palestinians reach an understanding with Jordan to join the negotiations table.

Dr Ghali demanded that the United States exercise its role as a full partner in the peace process so that it will return to the sound course.

In addition, Dr Ghali called on the Arab states to present world public opinion with a clear, specific, and practical vision for negotiations as a means for establishing peace in the Middle East.

'ALI COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S TRIP TO ASIA

NC271338 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, announced that political moves that are being directed by President Husni Mubarak within the sphere of Egypt's foreign relations will this time be made within the next few days in the direction of China, the DPRK, Japan, and Indonesia. He noted that Egypt enjoys a good standing in these states -- a standing based on a cultural exchange entrenched in the very depths of history.

He added that, basically, these moves are aimed, just as all the president's previous moves in the area of foreign relations were aimed, at boosting the potential of Egyptian society and at endowing it with added strength in the various political, economic, military, and cultural fields in perpetuation of the Egyptian people's march toward a better future.

In an exclusive interview which he granted to MENA today on the political and economic dimensions of President Husni Mubarak's visits to Asian states, which will begin on 1 April, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the visits will assume important dimensions from all the political and economic perspectives as well as from the perspective of timing and the geographical location of the states.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister emphasized that the anticipated visits are a clear indicator of the flexibility and scope of Egypt's foreign policy. These visits will include one to the largest socialist state in the world, China, and another visit to the DPRK, which has a socialist system. Visits will also be made to Japan, the giant of the capitalist economy, and to Indonesia, which plays a significant role among the Third World states.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that President Husni Mubarak's visits will also achieve vital assets for Egypt in the economic domain by bolstering cooperation with Japan, which is playing a role of growing importance in the field of economic aid to Egypt and in the area of investments in Egypt, and also by boosting cooperation with China, which is of special significance in the sphere of food security and of [word indistinct] for Egypt.

He said that in the Islamic world, Indonesia emerges as the largest [Islamic] bloc and as a pioneer state of the Islamic congress -- a state that has always kept close ties with Egypt.

He added that when it comes to the nonaligned states, Mubarak's visit also contributes to the consolidation of the relations between Egypt and two important nonaligned states, the DPRK and Indonesia. To all this can be added an important and well-known point, that is, Egypt has a vested military interest in cooperating with China and the DPRK.

In his interview with MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: On the political level, there can be no doubt that each one of the states that will be included in the tour has its special weight and its distinct impact on the international and regional blocs as far as international politics in general are concerned.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: A review of Egypt's bilateral relations with these four states reveals to us that Egypt's relations with China, which go back to 1955, are strong and traditional relations. Egypt was the first Arab and African state to recognize the PRC government. Therefore, China stood alongside Egypt, particularly in 1956, 1967, and 1973. China also took a positive attitude toward Egypt's efforts to achieve a just peace in the area.

He added: With regard to the economic sphere, in 1964 China gave us a loan worth 322 million Swiss francs. The present annual trade volume amounts to approximately $184 million and this volume is expected to increase in light of measures on which agreement was reached last December during PRC Prime Minister Huang Feng's visit to Egypt in order to bolster trade exchange between the two countries. For instance, I mention from among these measures China's importation of increasing quantities of Egyptian cotton and Egypt's acquisition of Chinese rice seedlings to increase rice fields in Egypt.

'Ali said that after concluding his visit to China, President Mubarak will visit the DPRK, which stood alongside Egypt during the military struggle to liberate its territory.

He added: Afterward the DPRK took an objective and positive attitude toward Egypt's peace efforts. This attitude bore an impact on the continuing development of relations in various domains, particularly in the economic field, and the two states are bound together by trade and financial agreements signed in 1963. There are also encouraging vistas for expansion of the present cooperation between the two countries in the domains of joint projects such as ship building, fisheries, and mechanization of rice [cultivation].

Kamal Hasan 'Ali mentioned that after Pyongyang -- the capital of the DPRK where the president will stay overnight -- President Mubarak will visit Japan and he will go to the capital, Tokyo and to the city of Osaka, one of the largest industrial cities.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt and Japan are bound together by a strong tie of growing relations in all fields. In the political arena, Japan supports Egypt's efforts to achieve peace. It also adopts a courageous stand on the Palestinian issue in addition to the fact that the two countries' viewpoints agree on all the important international issues.

He added: With regard to the economic sphere, Egypt and Japan are bound together by distinguished relations. This is epitomized in Japan's earmarking for Egypt about 4.5 percent of the total loans and economic aid extended by Japan. Egypt occupies the eighth place among the states of the world in receiving Japanese loans and aid.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali voiced his appreciation of Japan's good will in offering soft loans to finance vital projects in Egypt. For instance, these projects include those for widening the Suez Canal, for water and sewerage projects, for land reclamation projects, and electricity projects in Upper Egypt.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: President Husni Mubarak will conclude his weeklong tour with a visit to Indonesia, the friendly Islamic state that is linked to Egypt by strong and traditional ties, be in the domain of the Islamic bloc or in the domain of the nonaligned and Third World states.

The deputy prime minister noted the friendly attitude which Indonesia took toward Egypt's policy by expressing its reservations about the misguided draft resolution to suspend Egypt's membership in the Islamic Congress.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt's economic relations with Indonesia exist within the framework of a trade agreement signed in 1977. We stand prepared to discuss everything that can help strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the technical and economic fields as well as conclude the necessary agreements in this respect.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali concluded his interview with MENA saying: This new move by President Husni Mubarak is nothing but a continuation of his efforts to bolster the potentials of the Egyptian society and to endow them with the added asset of political, economic, military, and cultural strength. These efforts constitute steps taken on the road leading to the resolution of all economic problems and to achieving advancement and prosperity for the people of Egypt.

MUBARAK, MINISTERS DISCUSS OIL PRICE CUTS

NC261342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today met with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Petroleum Minister Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, and the ministers of finance, planning, economy, tourism and aviation, agriculture, industry, supply, and international investment and cooperation.

Following the meeting, Planning Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri said that the discussions dealt with two topics: The first is pertinent to the guidelines of the state's budget for 1983-84 regarding both revenues and expenditure. He said that last year's budget deficit totalled 1.5 billion pounds and that we are seeking to reduce the deficit. The second topic is the 1982-83 plan, which is the first year of the 5-year development plan. He said that the Planning Ministry is currently preparing a report on the third quarter of this year which ends on 31 March. He said that the Cabinet will discuss this report in the first or second week of April.

Al-Janzuri said that the deficit resulting from the cut in the oil prices this year totals $245 million and will total 500 million next year. We are seeking to tackle this deficit by squeezing expenditures and increasing industrial and agricultural production of the commodities that we import and by boosting exports. He affirmed that the government will not resort to raising prices, because this will harm the broad base of the citizens.

CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT 26 MAR

NC261557 Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 26 (MENA) -- Gilles Lamontagne, Canadian defence minister, and his accompanying delegation left here this afternoon winding up his four-day visit to Egypt, where he had talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and defense minister.

The talks have mainly dealt with means of consolidating military cooperation between Egypt and Canada, particularly in the military production fields, armament, and the establishment of new military cities.

The Canadian minister has also inspected the archeological sites in both Cairo and Luxor.

The visit has come in reply to Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's visit to Canada last September.

GREEK BISHOPS PERMITTED TO STAY UNTIL 5 APR

NC271028 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (AFP) -- Five Greek bishops ordered to leave Egypt by yesterday have received permission to remain in the country until April 5, a Greek diplomatic source said here.

According to the source, it was still hoped that a solution might be found to allow the bishops to remain in Egypt, with its Greek Orthodox community of between 10,000 and 15,000 members.

Contacts between the Greek Embassy in Cairo, the Greek Embassy in the Soviet Union -- where Greek Orthodox Patriarch Alexander Nicolas VI is undergoing medical treatment -- and the Greek minister of foreign affairs were underway in a bid to resolve the dispute, the source said.

Egyptian officials have said they were acting on a request from the Greek Orthodox Church who wanted the five churchmen expelled.

According to unconfirmed reports, the patriarch and his bishops were in conflict over the management of church funds.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT, AL-WAZIR ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD 28 MAR

JN281012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here from Riyadh today on a visit to Iraq. 'Arafat, who is accompanied by Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, was received by Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the head of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in Baghdad.

MILITARY COMMUNIQUES RECOUNT IRANIAN LOSSES

Number 1,039

JN251734 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,039 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With increasing valor, sacrifice, and dedication to the people and homeland, the valiant sons of the Armed Forces continued their daring operations in the operational sectors with the following results for last night and today:

1. One of our forward units attacked an enemy troop concentration in the northern sector, killing five. The rest fled.

2. One killed, a number of others wounded, and one infantry position destroyed -- killing its occupants -- as well as one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One vehicle and two observation posts were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. The vile Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra, Mandali, Khurmal, and Zurbatiyah, wounding a child in Khurmal and damaging five houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 March 1983

Number 1,040

JN261732 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,040 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 26 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The glorious sons of Iraq, while confronting the tyrannical Iranian aggression, are asserting their courageous determination to defend their sovereignty, dignity, and the prosperous future of their generations. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our combat patrols clashed with an enemy force opposite one of our units' positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing three, wounding others, and forcing the rest to flee. One machinegun, one observation post, and one hardware stockpile were also destroyed. The enemy also sustained two killed and one vehicle and two hardware stockpiles destroyed opposite our other units' positions in the same sector.

2. Today our valiant fighter planes attacked the enemy positions and both troop and vehicular concentrations in areas opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector and the central sector of the battlefield, scoring direct hits. Fire could be seen in the enemy targets. All our planes returned safely to base, thanks be to God.

3. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four and destroying one weapon position, one hardware stockpile, and two observation posts. An enemy force tried to approach the positions of one of our units in the same sector. Our forces opened fire on it and forced it to withdraw.

4. One was killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. One excavator and one hardware stockpile were destroyed east of Basra.

6. Today the barbaric Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra and Mandali and their outskirts as well as Khurmal with artillary. The enemy shelling wounded 3 civilians and damaged 10 houses and some civilian installations in Mandali. The savage shelling also led to the martyrdom of one civilian and the destruction of some houses in Khurmal, is the Halabjah district.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 March 1983

Number 1,041

JN271720 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi forces have killed 17 Iranians and destroyed 2 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 stockpile of hardware, and 3 infantry positions. Military communique No 1,041 issued here this evening said that the Iranian artillery shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, wounding one civilian and damaging a number of civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,041 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave troops continued their operations in the operational sectors against the suspect racist Khomeyniites, with the following results for last night and today:

1. One of our forward units spotted an enemy troop concentration in the area east of Basra, attacked it, and killed eight enemy personnel. A sniper of our forward units in the same sector killed four enemy personnel.

2. Our forward units attacked an enemy troop concentration in the Maysan operational sector, killing four and destroying two vehicles, one gun, and one stockpile of hardware.

3. One was killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the central operational sector.

4. Today the Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah. The shelling left one civilian in Mandali wounded and a number of civilian installations in Basra damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 March 1983

HUSAYN RECEIVES SAUDI ENVOY, FAHD'S MESSAGE

JN261814 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message, which was delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal when his majesty received him this afternoon, deals with the situation in the region and the Arab position on current developments. The message falls within the framework of consultations and exchange of views between the leadership of the two fraternal countries.

His highness the Saudi foreign minister arrived in Amman earlier today.

Saudi Minister's Visit

JN281114 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived suddenly in Amman today, carrying a new message from King Fahd to King Husayn. The message is believed to be related to the role being played by Saudi Arabia within the framework of bolstering Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Amman the day before yesterday, Saturday, for the same purpose.

PLO'S QADDUMI ARRIVES IN AMMAN 27 MARCH

JN271012 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Amman from Damascus this morning.

A responsible Palestinian source in Amman said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is also expected to arrive in Amman today.

JORDAN TIMES EDITORIAL ON PEACE PROCESS, PLO

JN280651 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Mar 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Solidarity Is the Answer"]

[Text] It is not only unfair that the United States is asking Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization alone to give a new life to the moribund peace process in the Middle East, when Washington itself does not seem to be prepared to exert enough effort to wrestle even one concession from Israel on the questions of Lebanon or the West Bank. It is also wrong to assume that Jordanians and Palestinians would want to be a part of a process that is likely to complicate, rather than simplify, future steps towards achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

It is not a secret that Jordan is willing, and has indicated on a number of occasions, its willingness to negotiate peace, and even take a risk for it, provided that the PLO, as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, agreed there was a fair chance that something might be accomplished through taking such a step. If and when the PLO said "yes", Jordan would still be taking the big risk of struggling in a diplomatic quagmire with Menahem Begin; but, at least, Palestinians and Arabs would have understood why it all had to happen this way. If, however, the PLO did not believe that progress was possible under the given circumstances, and that the organisation did not want to be a party to a doomed process, Jordan could only decide to play it safe, and understandably so.

Playing it safe may not be the immediate answer to the Palestine problem, and all Arabs should be aware of this fact.

Perhaps this explains why the Palestine National Council in its meeting in Algiers last month, chose to rule that the PLO leadership should continue diplomatic moves towards achieving a political settlement but seems to have found that reaching a compromise among the various Palestinian groups was indeed more important at this stage than risking a split over one dramatic move that might have even promised of solving the Palestinian problem overnight.

Still, the time factor may or may not work in the interests of the Arab nation, but time definitely is not totally ours; and therefore we cannot afford to ignore today's realities as they are. In this context, our best option remains that of strong Jordnanian-Palestinian solidarity, within a unified Arab position, to confront, together, the issue of peace or war.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES USSR'S GRINEVSKIY

JN261424 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs, today received Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Near Eastern countries department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Al-Qasim reviewed the situation in the region in light of the Arab and international developments. He also explained the Jordanian Government's position on the Palestinian question and the Middle East issue, stressing the need for the quick withdrawal of the Zionist invading forces from Lebanon.

Al-Qasim emphasized Jordan's attitude toward the attainment of a just, comprehensive solution in the region based on the UN Security Council's resolution [as heard], the European statement, and the Arab peace plan.

MUDAR BADRAN RECEIVES SFRY OFFICIAL 27 MARCH

JN271337 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] In his office at noon today, Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Dimitrije Tasic, SFRY Executive Council member and head of the SFRY side in the joint Jordanian-SFRY committee. During the meeting, which was attended by Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, and the SFRY ambassador in Amman, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means to promote and develop in commercial, economic, and technical fields.

Jordanian-SFRY Committee Meets

JN271904 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Mar

[Text] The joint Jordanian-SFRY economic committee held its first meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic and commercial relations between the two countries and means to promote and develop them.

The committee's agenda includes discussion of measures to be taken to promote and develop commercial exchanges, particularly increasing phosphate exports to Yugoslavia and exploring other Jordanian commodities. They also discussed economic cooperation and the possibility of setting up joint projects and exchanging technical and cultural expertise.

The Jordanian side at these meetings is led by Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, and the Yugoslav side is led by Dimitrije Tasic, SFRY Executive Council member, who arrived in Amman last night. He was received by Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, a number of ministry officials, and the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman.

SUBCOMMITTEE TALKS END IN NETANYA 25 MARCH

NC251228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Report by delegation of Ministry of Information from Netanya -- recorded]

[Text] This is the delegation of the Ministry of Information to the tripartite Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations reporting to you from Dan Netanya Hotel where the meetings of the military and withdrawals committee, the mutual relations committee, and the termination of the state of war committee ended at 1230. The official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, came out and made the following statements:

Dr as-Sayigh said: The Israeli side outlined its theory on the subject of the organization of Sa'd Haddad's forces. The Israeli delegate refrained from giving information in this regard as requested by the Lebanese delegation. The Israeli side also outlined its theories regarding security arrangements in the south and near the border -- those which are acceptable and those which are rejected because they conflict with Lebanese sovereignty.

Ladies and gentlemen, so far we know nothing about the next Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations, which are due to be held next week, since neither of the two official spokesmen of the Lebanese and Israeli delegations has given any information in this regard. The delegation of the Ministry of Information to the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations has been with you, and now back to our studios at Lebanon radio. The Lebanese delegation will return to Beirut in approximately 10 minutes.

SALIM INTERVIEWED ON WITHDRAWALS, TALKS

NC251401 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] London, March 25 (MENA) -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim said he believes that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon because the United States is pledged to bring about this withdrawal.

In an interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper printed today, Dr Salim said there is a period of grace until Easter to know the final state of the recent American proposals for security measures in south Lebanon. He pointed out that this grace period has nothing to do with the American pledge to achieve the withdrawal.

Asked whether this year would witness the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, Salim said that the withdrawals would be completed sooner than that. He added that his optimism was due to good coordination between Lebanon and the United States, the obstinate Lebanese stand, regional and international support for Lebanon, and Israel's lack to good claims for staying.

Dr Elie Salim said that in case the United States failed to achieve Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, his country would make another try, also with United States help. "Our option would be within an American solution, so that we should not be left alone with Israel," he said.

Asked whether the United States has exercised any pressure on Israel so far, Salim said the United States never uses pressure on Israel "but exercises a certain kind of attempts of persuasion."

"The method of exaggeration would not work with Israel." He added, "The right way is the American way of light and gentle approach."

About the Soviet role in the Middle East, Salim said the Soviet Union has no influence on Israel, its influence being with Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He added that Lebanon has close and cordial relations with Syria and the PLO, and needs no third party there.

SALIM DISCUSSES ISRAEL TALKS WITH HABIB

NC252101 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2009 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Report by reporter Joe Sa'adah from Republican Palace -- live]

[Text] The meeting that was held this evening in the Republican Palace was attended on the Lebanese side by Minister Salim, Dr Haddad, Ghassan Tuwayni, and the head of the negotiating delegation. Also in attendance was Lebanese Army Commander General Tannus.

On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Ambassadors Habib, Draper, and Dillon and by some members of the U.S. negotiating team. The meeting ended at 1945. It lasted about 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Minister Salim had met with Ambassador Philip Habib in the morning for 20 minutes. Before the evening's meeting, Minister Salim presided over a meeting of the political operations room with the Lebanese negotiating delegations. The meeting was devoted to an assessment of the negotiations that took place in Netanya today.

Nothing final occurred at today's negotiations. These negotiations centered on two subjects: first, the framework of mutual relations and, second, the security arrangements. The discussion focused on the subject of the security arrangements, particularly on the subject of the conditions that Israel is setting over and above the proposals on which agreement was reached following the meetings and the discussions that were held in Washington.

Lebanon thinks that these conditions include ones that can be discussed. However, there are other conditions that Lebanon cannot possibly accept. There are now new Lebanese stands on new Israeli conditions. Anyway, tomorrow Ambassador Philip Habib will meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil before he returns to Israel in the afternoon to meet on Sunday with Israeli officials.

What can be said about these discussions and negotiations is that the discussions are intensive. There are points of contention, while no solutions are likely to appear quickly. Therefore, it is imperative that the negotiations be intensified and that the fears voiced by Israel be dissipated.

What is important is that Ambassador Philip Habib will take with him to Israel -- following his current visit to Lebanon -- numerous ideas that might help him crystallize new stands and ideas.

HABIB BRIEFS AL-JUMAYYIL ON ISRAELI STANCE

NC261024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this morning was briefed by Ambassador Philip Habib on the Israeli response to U.S. proposals and conveyed to him the Lebanese position on this Israeli response.

The U.S. presidential envoy is expected to return to Israel this afternoon to continue this mission.

Israel radio has said that the basic issues which are still the subject of disagreement between Lebanon and Israel are the security arrangements in the south and the future of Major Sa'd Haddad.

SOURCES REPORT BEIRUT STAND ON SECURITY IN SOUTH

NC271617 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 26 (AFP) -- Lebanon is willing to consider Israel's preference for a southern Lebanon security force commander, so long as that choice is not Major Sa'd Haddad, renegade chief of the Israeli-supported Lebanese Christian militia, reliable sources said here today.

They said U.S. envoy Philip Habib, after meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, left for Jerusalem today carrying that message to the Israeli Government in efforts to smooth over Israeli-Lebanese differences on permanent security arrangements after the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Lebanon remains adamant on its refusal to accept any role for Major Haddad in post-withdrawal arrangements, the sources said.

Lebanon would, however, be amenable to a choice of one of seven members (four Shi'ites and three Christians) of the command council named by Major Haddad, they said, adding that the reintegration of the dissident chief into the Lebanese Army posed no problem for the Lebanese Government.

Israel has in recent weeks insisted on Major Haddad as commander of post-withdrawal security in southern Lebanon, and that he not be subject to removal by Lebanese authorities. Israel also insists on maintaining what it terms early warning stations in southern Lebanon after withdrawal.

In meetings with Israeli officials before coming to Beirut, Mr Habib was told the demands were considered temporary measures aimed at insuring Israel's security, Lebanese sources said.

That mitigation notwithstanding, Lebanon is said to be holding fast to its refusal to allow any Israeli presence on its territory.

Authoritative sources here said Mr Habib's current mission is limited to security arrangements, and does not include the question of the normalization of Israeli-Lebanese relations, which Israel is demanding and Lebanon is resisting.

Political sources say Israel could adopt a "stalling tactic" in withdrawal talks aimed at sidetracking American attention from negotiations on the occupied West Bank.

They also speculate that the attitude of Israeli leaders reflects a certain hostility toward Mr Habib, and that an upcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz could bring a change.

AL-JUMAYYIL REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS U.S. PROPOSALS

NC261826 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has informed U.S. envoy Philip Habib of Lebanon's stance regarding the negotiations, affirming that Lebanon cannot make new concessions within the framework of the negotiations for the withdrawal of foreign forces. Lebanon's stance has been clear since the beginning. It rejects anything affecting national sovereignty. Some news sources indicate that Lebanon agrees with the U.S. efforts and alternative proposals which Washington had presented during the side consultations held in the U.S. capital about 2 weeks ago.

SALAM EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH U.S. STAND

NC270840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] President al-Jumayyil's envoy to the United States [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has emphasized that Lebanon will not make any concessions to Israel that would undermine Lebanon's sovereignty or harm Arab interests.

In an interview he granted to the Washington correspondent of the KULL AL-'ARAB magazine, which appears in Paris today, Salam said that the Americans, who are partners in the tripartite negotiations, have adopted a clear stand. I can say, he added, that the Americans have been neutral so far. All that we have asked in the past, he added, and all that we ask now from the Americans is that they be neutral. We consider this sufficient because when they are neutral, this means that the Americans are in the same line as us.

SALAM ADVISES HALT TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC280750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam believes that it is better for Lebanon to stop the negotiations with Israel if it continues to lay obstacles in order to achieve an agreement which would detract from Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and if it continues to procrastinate.

Salam conveyed this opinion to U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib during a telephone conversation between them last Saturday. Salam said: I informed Ambassador Habib that Lebanon has no more to give to Israel or anyone else. If Israel wants to impose its impossible conditions on Lebanon, then this will not dissuade Lebanon from its firm stand.

Salam explained that he warned Habib against allowing Israel to turn him into a tourist moving between Beirut and Tel Aviv so that his mission might remain a shuttle mission forever.

Last Saturday, Salam telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil three times and consulted with him on the question of the negotiations and the mission of the U.S. envoy.

Regarding the obstacles which Israel is laying in the path of an agreement with Lebanon, Salam explained that Israel wants to impose Sa'd Haddad on the Lebanese authority and Army. He said: This is unacceptable. What is acceptable is that the regular soldiers who were under Haddad's command in 1976 should return to the Army. Their number is known and the Lebanese Army will not accept the others.

SYRIANS REINFORCE AL-BIQA', BORDER POSITIONS

NC270826 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' indicate that tension prevails over the area and that fortifications are being made on both the Syrian and Israeli sides.

Yesterday, Syrian bulldozers were seen operating in the Sultan Ya'qub and Ad-Daqun areas. Quoting military sources, the reports add that the Syrian forces have reinforced their positions in Al-Biqa' with sophisticated weapons and that Soviet experts have inspected the Syrian positions.

Reports add that the Syrian forces have increased their SAM-9 and SAM-6 batteries along the Syrian-Lebanese border.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY USSR DELEGATION 25-27 MAR

Visits Tourist Sites

JN251959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Mahmud az-Zu'bi, People's Assembly speaker, this morning visited a number of tourist establishments and areas in Damascus province. They were accompanied by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation which is currently visiting Syria.

The friendly USSR delegation learned of economic achievements, tourist sites, and summer resorts in these areas. The head and members of the guest delegation expressed admiration for what they had seen and wished Syria further progress and prosperity under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad. They also affirmed that Syria will realize its objective in the construction, liberation, and progress for which it is struggling.

Al-Asad Receives Delegation

JN261128 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the accompanying delegation. Mahmud az-Zu'bi, People's Assembly speaker, and Vladimir Yukhin, the USSR ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Further on Meeting

JN261550 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad today received Comrade Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Mahmud az-Zu'bi, speaker of the People's Assembly, and Vladimir Yukhin, the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

Koshoyev conveyed to President al-Asad greetings from Comrade Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU, and the members of the Soviet leadership. The president received them with thanks and asked the guest delegation to convey his greetings and best wishes to Comrade Andropov, the members of the CPSU Politburo, the Soviet leaders, and the peoples of the USSR.

Comrade Koshoyev expressed great appreciation for the political line pursued by Syria under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and said: We in the USSR are closely following the developments in the region. Our delegation has been entrusted to affirm that we stand by Syria in all fields.

Comrade Koshoyev condemned Israel's savage acts and said what Israel has carried out with the support of the United States reminds people of the bestial crimes commited by the Nazis.

President al-Asad affirmed Syria's strong adherence to the existing friendship with the USSR and said: Imperialist attempts cannot mislead our masses, because any attempt to undermine the friendship between Syria and the USSR is only an attempt to weaken and subjugate us.

The president added: The United States and Israel are dangers to the region. We will not succumb to pressure or be blackmailed. Syria will not deviate from its political line. Imperialism and Zionism do not scare us.

We will fight the imperialist and Zionist line in the region with all our strength. We are confident that imperialist plans will fail.

The president said: We are confident that we will, in the long term, achieve the just objectives of our people. We are depending on our people and the support of our friends in the socialist bloc, headed by the USSR.

Al-Ahmar Confers With Koshoyev

JN261329 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, today met with Temirebek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The two sides reviewed the strong relations between the Ba'th Party and the CPSU and the two fraternal countries' relations which became stronger following the signing of the cooperation and friendship agreement between them.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed the deep roots and development of these relations which are based on the goals of the joint struggle by the two countries' peoples and serve their mutual interests. The talk also dealt with the most important developments in the region, particularly the U.S.-Zionist designs that are aimed at dominating the Arab homeland and liquidating its central issue, the Palestinian issue. The two sides also reviewed the developments resulting from the Zionist enemy's invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of Arab land which create hotbeds of tension, not only in the region, but also in the world at large. They affirmed that the United States and its lackey Israel are responsible for what is taking place in the region.

Comrade Al-Ahmar affirmed the development of relations between Syria and the USSR which contributes effectively toward the achievement of a real balance between us and the Zionist enemy in confronting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary schemes in the region.

Al-Kasm Receives Koshoyev

JN261728 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] At 1330 today Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Korgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium, and members of the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting Koshoyev conveyed to Dr al-Kasm the greetings of the Soviet leaders and stressed the importance of the continued Syrian-USSR contacts and meetings within the framework of promoting the existing friendship and cooperation relations between Syria and the USSR. Koshoyev also praised the great economic and social progress demonstrated by the existing establishments and projects in Syria.

The prime minister thanked the friendly USSR delegation for its appreciation of Syria's progress and firm struggle, and said: Cooperation between the two friendly countries, Syria and the USSR, is strongly and deeply developing based on the deep-rooted Syrian-USSR friendship, which is continuously strengthening in economic, political, and military fields.

Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm affirmed that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, will continue to confront strongly and firmly all designs of U.S. imperialism and Zionism, taking pride in the support of all the people, who are struggling for justice and freedom. At the end of the meeting, Dr al-Kasm asked Koshoyev to convey his greetings to the Soviet leaders.

Koshoyev Attends Meeting

JN262018 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] The People's Assembly held a meeting this evening under Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a number of ministers. The meeting was also attended by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium, his delegation currently visitng Syria, and the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mahmud az-Zu'bi made a speech in which he welcomed Koshoyev and his delegation. He said that the delegation's visit to Syria is fresh proof of the profound Syrian-USSR friendship whose basis was laid down by Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad and the CPSU leadership -- a friendship which began a long time ago and which which continues to grow strengthened every day. Comrade az-Zu'bi added that our people highly appreciate the stand of the USSR, the great friend of the Arabs, which has rendered and is continuing to render great support to our Arab causes and the causes of liberation and progresss in the world. Az-Zu'bi said: During the important and useful talks which we held with the friendly delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet we felt the deepness and strength of our friendship.

A number of People's Assembly members representing all parties in the progressive national front and the popular organizations also spoke, welcoming the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation. They pointed out that the visit comes at a very critical time when the imperialist and Zionist onslaught is escalating against Syria because of its firm and principled stands. They called for more cohesion between the two friendly peoples and for strengthening their joint struggle against U.S. omperialism and Zionism so as to realize just and permament peace in the Middle East and foil all the plots and schemes aimed against the peoples of the region and world peace. They hailed the Syrian-USSR friendship and cooperation treaty and saluted the two great leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Yuriy Andropov.

The head of the USSR delegation, Temibrek Koshoyev, made a reply speech. He expressed his admiration for the Syrian people's achievements under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and reiterated his country's support for the Syrian people's just and brave struggle for construction and liberation.

Koshoyev, Az-Zu'bi Sign Statement

JN271348 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA) -- A joint statement was signed this morning on the talks between a Syrian People's Assembly delegation and a USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation which is paying a visit to Syria 21-28 March.

The joint statement was signed for Syria by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi and for the USSR delegation by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium.

After signing the joint statement, Az-Zu'bi and Koshoyev exchanged speeches in which they stressed the strength of the friendship which exists between Syria and the USSR.

The People's Assembly speaker expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by the two delegations during the talks and noted that the joint statement contains a reaffirmation of the two frinedly countries' stands on the basic issues in the Middle East and the urgent issues in the international arena.

Az-Zu'bi added: We consider the joint statement an important achievement and a step on the road to consolidation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It also expresses the sentiments of our people and those of the Syrian People's Assembly toward the firm stand that the USSR under the CPSU and its General Secretary Comrade Yuriy Andropov is adopting on our just Arab causes.

Koshoyev said that, through the joint statement, the Soviet parliamentarians had reiterated that the two countries' stands are indentical on the various issues discussed. He added that this is a fact which shows that they have the common aspiration to establish a deep-rooted peace, whether in the Middle East or in the world at large, and to proceed to develop and strengthen friendship between the two friendly countries.

Koshoyev added that the joint statement underlines that the international prestige of the USSR as a superpower and that of Syria, the vanguard of the Arab liberation movement in the Middle East, support a common militant course dedicated to attaining common objectives for a bright future.

Continuing his remarks on the joint statement, Koshoyev said that the two sides agreed to implement the contents of the joint statement on the ground and will coordinate their efforts concerning all the significant issues of the age. He added that the agreement reached between the two sides and their common concepts would ensure the success of their common struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

He expressed his thanks and those of his delegation for the warm hospitality and amity accorded them during the visit, particularly during their meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad -- the meeting which has deeply impressed the delegation members.

The joint statement will be simultaneously broadcast in Damascus and Moscow on Tuesday evening.

PRIME MINISTER AL-KASM REPORTEDLY SERIOUSLY ILL

PM251629 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 83 p 1

[Unattributed "Secret, Not for Publication" daily corner]

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm was admitted to Ash-Shami hosptial in Damascus last Sunday in a condition described as "extremely serious" as a result of complications of his illness.

Doctors are reported as saying that, even if he survives, he will not be able to carry on with the tasks of his post in the future.

AL-KASM VISITS WORK SITES 25 MARCH

JN251912 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm today visited the work site of the Jabal Qasyun company on the occasion of the voluntary work day by the company workers in honor of the 20th anniversary of the glorious March Revolution.

The prime minister, accompanied by the director, inspected the most significant work sites and was briefed on the progress so far on the Al-Muhallaq and Beirut roads as well as in the various workshops.

MILITARY TALKS STILL DEADLOCKED IN NETANYA

TA251202 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Another round of talks in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, with the participation of the United States, ended a short while ago in Netanya. We have mentioned that it was said that there is no ultimatum and we have also described the atmosphere there -- the deadlock was not broken in Netanya today. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports from Netanya.

[Einstein] The deadlock in the military subcommittee has not been broken, nor has a solution been found to the deadlock regarding the security elements in southern Lebanon. The members of the Israeli delegation in this subcommittee reemphasized the great importance Israel attaches to the security arrangements and its determination not to make any concessions in this matter since the security of the northern settlements is at stake. The Israeli delegation's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said in answer to a question that the Israeli Government has not discussed the possibility of a unilateral withdrawal of our forces to the Al-'Awwali river.

[Begin Pazner recording] As stated, the government did not discuss that. However, it may be presumed that there are people on our side too who are starting to show impatience over the pace of the negotiations and over what seems to be a lack of Lebanese accommodation to our security needs. [end recording]

So, the bone of contention is the security arrangements. The Israeli delegation hopes that the Lebanese will relax their position, and that they will bring good tidings in this spirit to the next session, to be held on Thursday in Qiryat Shemona.

Problems Reviewed

TA241304 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Informed sources in Jerusalem this morning denied press reports to the effect that the negotiations with Lebanon have reached a deadend. The sources refused to comment on Lebanese press reports quoting the leadership in Beirut as having set a 2-week deadline for a negotiated troop withdrawal agreement with Israel. The situation is summed up for us by Arye Haskell:

[Begin recording] What the sources did admit however, is that there has been no progress in the negotiations over the future of the leader of the Lebanese forces in the south, Major Sa'd Haddad. They told me that the Lebanese authorities appear to be moving in the direction of agreeing to the integration of the forces under Haddad's command, but the future of Haddad himself is a major sticking point. It will be recalled that Haddad was an officer in the Lebanese regular army who broke away and set up a virtually independent enclave in the area bordering on Israel, and has been consistent in his cooperation with and support for Israel.

The sources also said that Israel still wants patrols and observation posts in southern Lebanon. In talks with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, it was also made plain that the Israeli side sees no role for UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, nor for a multinational force. As one official put it, we are against the presence of any foreign forces in southern Lebanon where our cardinal concern is to ensure that the PLO or other terrorists do not return.

On a more upbeat note the informed sources point to considerable progress in negotiations on mutual relations, saying that these have reached the point where differences between Beirut and Jerusalem are concerned with the fine print of the draft agreement. The same is said to apply to the negotiations on ending the formal state of war between the two countries.

In the latest round of talks conducted yesterday with Philip Habib, Foreign Minister Shamir pointed out that Israel knows nothing of parallel negotiations with Syria on the withdrawal of Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon. Shamir also raised the question of the Israeli prisoners of war once more. Israeli officials say that the negotiations on their release have reached a delicate stage and the less said on this subject the better. [end recording]

AL-JUMAYYIL MAY VISIT REAGAN IF TALKS STALL

TA241235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Official sources in Beirut say that President al-Jumayyil or Prime Minister al-Wazzan might leave for Washington to meet President Reagan if no agreement [heskem] is reached with Israel within 9 days.

SHAMIR EXPLAINS ISRAELI POSITION ON HADDAD TO HABIB

TA271812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Philip Habib today that Major Sa'd Haddad and his forces' stay on Lebanese soil, where they are, is in Israel's interest and Philip Habib would be well advised to make this position very clear to the Lebanese Government. In the absence of a guarantee on this matter, no agreement will be possible, the foreign minister said.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Shamir told the U.S. envoy that Maj Sa'd Haddad had for years proved his competence in combatting the terrorists, and Israel has learned how to work in collaboration with him, and has full confidence in him. Minister Shamir added that the Lebanese Government cannot ignore Israel's security needs along its northern border, and must therefore establish cooperation between the Lebanese Army and the IDF in order to prevent the return of the PLO to southern Lebanon. Philip Habib replied that he would transmit what he heard in that meeting to the Lebanese president.

Our correspondent has learned that Philip Habib did not bring with him from Beirut any new proposal on the status of Maj Haddad or the military cooperation Israel is demanding [doreshet]. Philip Habib will return to Israel at the end of this week, or possibly early next week.

More on Meeting

TA271942 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Report by Yoram Ronen]

[Excerpt] In the afternoon Philip Habib arrived at the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem. He returned from Beirut today with a renewed statement by President al-Jumayyil that Lebanon is not prepared to have Sa'd Haddad as the military commander of the southern Lebanese area. Habib also reported that the Lebanese nevertheless are prepared to continue the negotiations on the Haddad problem and are not presenting any ultimatums. The Lebanese did not also suggest to Habib that Haddad's deputy replace him as the commander in the south.

When he returns to Beirut tomorrow Philip Habib will present an uncompromising Israel stance on Haddad. Foreign Minister Shamir said we will not give up a safe border, clear of terrorists in the north. This is the major achievement of the Lebanese war and Sa'd Haddad in a commanding position will be the one to guarantee us a quiet border. Haddad has proven his ability to curb PLO activity and Israel relies on him.

Habib listened to Shamir and promised to make renewed efforts in Beirut during the pass-over to bring the two sides' positions on the Haddad issue closer, and to remove the last stumbling block in these long negotiations with Lebanon.

LEBANON CONSIDERING DEFENSE PACT WITH U.S.

TA280816 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] The administration in Beirut is considering appealing to the United States to sign a defense pact if it emerges finally that it is impossible to reach an agreement with Israel.

This was reported by the Beirut paper AL-ANBA', the mouthpiece of the leftist Druze party. According to the newspaper, the Lebanese Government is contemplating offering the United States an agreement of understanding for 2 to 3 years to thus obtain guarantees for Lebanon's security, if the U.S. Administration is unable to effect the withdrawal of the foreign forces as part of the ongoing diplomatic moves.

The Lebanese Government believes that such an agreement can also satisfy Israel's demand for security guarantees in the south, and help Amin al-Jumayyil's regime strengthen its hold on the country with the help of U.S. aid toward setting up a strong Lebanese Army.

It was learned yesterday that in view of the violent opposition of Shi'ite elements in West Beirut to the detentions the Lebanese Army occasionally carries out among subversive civilian elements. The Lebanese Army command recently postponed the execution of a wide-scale arrest campaign planned against extreme leftist elements and terrorist squads that have returned to take up positions in West Beirut.

According to as yet unconfirmed information, the Lebanese prime minister threatened to resign yesterday unless the army ceases to arrest leftist elements in West Beirut in the style of those arrests made 2 days ago, which resulted in violent clashes between local Shi'ite inhabitants and the Lebanese security forces.

CABINET MEETING BRINGS NO BREAKTHROUGH ON TALKS

TA271234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Report from prime minister's office in Jerusalem by Alan Ben-'Ami, following Cabinet session]

[Text] Still no breakthrough in sight was the assessment of Cabinet members after this morning's review of the state of the tripartite negotiations among Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. Despite tangible progress that has been made during the weeks of negotiations so far, a final agreement remains elusive. According to one Cabinet official, some specific points still need to be settled, and unless there is progress on these soon, Israel will have to review its whole position. One of these points, but only one, is the future role of south Lebanese militia leader Sa'd Haddad.

Israel considers Major Haddad a tried and trusted friend who has proved his ability to keep the Lebanese border region clear of terrorists, and there is no intention of agreed pullout without Maj Haddad being left in charge of security in south Lebanon. It's not only a moral obligation we feel, said one Israeli official. We just don't see anyone else capable enough.

This afternoon U.S. envoy Philip Habib is to discuss some Lebanese proposals with Foreign Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens, but the feeling in Jerusalem is not too optimistic.

Prime Minister Begin told Cabinet members and Israel's generals after the government session this morning that Israel still faces problems in ensuring that the gains of the Peace for Galilee campaign will not be lost, and that Israel's northern border will not again be subject to the threat of terror and bombardment. The prime minister was speaking at a ceremony where campaign ribbons were presented to the chief of staff, and to 35 army men who had led the Peace for Galilee operation. The widow of General Yequti'el Adam, killed during that campaign, also received the campaign ribbon.

Later, in the forecourt of the prime minister's office, Mr Begin unrolled campaign ribbons on the flags of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces. Outgoing Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan did the same for the flags of army, Navy, and Air Force units, and then read out an order of the day in which he paid tribute to those who fought in the campaign and to the dead and the captive. The army will stand firm, said Gen Eytan, so that the government will be able to negotiate the peace and quiet that we all fought for.

Arens, Sharon Disagree

TA271405 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1355 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel has learned further details about today's weekly Cabinet meeting. In the course of the meeting a sharp argument erupted around the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, especially between Ministers Sharon and Arens. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel has achieved most of its demands [derishoteha] as formulated in the document submitted to the Cabinet in October 1982.

Minister Sharon said, in contrast, that the October document was verbal only and that additional documents were attached to it containing our practical demands which have not yet been obtained. Minister Sharon added that the way in which the negotiations are conducted will not gain any achievements for Israel.

An argument developed in the Cabinet and Begin finally stated that we are reaching a decisive point in the negotiations.

A government source said after the meeting that we will soon know whether we will be able to complete the negotiations with Lebanon or whether we will have to adopt other ways to ensure our achievements in the war.

More on Cabinet Session

TA271523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Another meeting is expected to take place in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem right now between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. envoy Philip Habib. Government sources said prior to the meeting that Israel would not give up its demand [derishata] regarding Major Sa'd Haddad's status.

At today's Cabinet session, Ministers Shamir and Arens reported on the contacts with Habib, and this was followed by an argument between Minister Sharon and Defense Minister Moshe Arens and a group of ministers on the way the negotiations with Lebanon were being conducted. Here is a report by our correspondent Arye Golan:

[Begin Golan recording] Today's Cabinet session was shorter than usual, and immediately after the reviews brought by the foreign and defense ministers, a debate developed on the way the negotiations with Lebanon, through the United States, were being conducted. Some ministers later described the debate as being a heated argument. It was reported that Minister Sharon attacked Defense Minister Arens' approach to the negotiations, arguing that nothing can be gained by the way that is being pursued. Sharon's spokesman, Uri Dan, claimed after the meeting that Sharon attacked no one. Still, some ministers argued that precious time has been forfeited and what Israel is now receiving is not what it wanted to gain in Lebanon.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens read out at the session the document of demands [mismakh hatevi'ot] Israel had formulated last October, and said that a substantial part of the clauses included in that document had been achieved. Sharon later responded by saying that the document was a verbal [miluli] document only and did not specify Israel's objectives in the field: These, he added, have not yet been achieved through the negotiations.

Arens was supported in the argument with Sharon by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Minister Hammer. They said that every possible move should be exhausted in order to reach an arrangement in Lebanon. Two other ministers, Yuval Ne'eman and Mordekhay Ben-Porat, suggested carrying out a unilateral Israeli withdrawal up to the Al-'Awwali River, contending that not only the Lebanese can submit an ultimatum -- as Ben-Porat put it -- but so can Israel.

Minister Moda'i recalled that he had suggested a unilateral withdrawal as far back as 4 months ago. It appears, Minister Moda'i said, that we have scored achievements in the negotiations in the sphere of formulation, but we made concessions on substantial issues.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin summed up the debate by saying that part of Israel's proposals are unacceptable to Lebanon and the United States, yet the negotiations are nearing their crucial point.

In other words, Jerusalem is currently awaiting the results of the meeting that will be held this evening between Foreign Minister Shamir and U.S. envoy Philip Habib. [end recording]

CABINET TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL TO AL-'AWWALI

TA271257 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1250 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The Cabinet will soon discuss the proposal to have the IDF in Lebanon pull back to the Al-'Awwali River line. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that this suggestion was raised at the weekly Cabinet session by Ministers Mordekhay Ben-Porat and Yuval Ne'eman. The former said at the meeting that Lebanon is an unconsolidated body and it is inconceivable that the security and defense of the country's northern border be left in its hands. Prime Minister Begin said in reaction that some security arrangements we had proposed had been turned down, and the time is getting nearer when we will have to make decisions regarding those proposals.

The prime minister added that in regard to Israel's demand that Sa'd Haddad be placed at the head of the Lebanese Army in the security strip, there is a broad consensus in the country even beyond the coalition bounds. To repeat, the Cabinet will soon discuss a suggestion that the IDF withdraw in Lebanon to the Al-'Awwali line, as our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reported.

SOURCES FORESEE NO CONCESSION ON HADDAD ISSUE

TA270644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Israel has relaxed its positions enough in the negotiations with Lebanon and will not concede on the issue of Major Sa'd Haddad's status, political circles in Jerusalem have said. The U.S. envoy Philip Habib will present the new Lebanese proposals he has brought from Beirut to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening. Our political correspondent reports that some of the Cabinet ministers are very critical of the way the talks are being conducted. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Frankel] There are those in Jerusalem who speak of the need for a unilateral move by Israel and raise again the idea of an IDF withdrawal to the 45 km line. Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche told the Lebanese delegation in Netanya on Friday that if Lebanon has alternatives to the negotiations, Israel does too. These threats and hinted threats do not herald new Israeli intentions as much as they indicate disappointment in Jerusalem and a feeling that the contacts with Lebanon have reached a dead end.

The dispute still centers on Haddad's status in the security strip. Israel tried in vain to convince the United States that Haddad is an irreplacable component in the security arrangements. The Americans were not persuaded, to say nothing of Al-Jumayyil's government in Beirut. U.S. sources in Israel think that even after Habib's talks in Beirut, Lebanon does not and will not agree to placing Haddad in charge of the forces in southern Lebanon.

If this is indeed true, then the proposals that Habib is bringing, however new they are, will not be accepted by Israel. In Jerusalem it is being said, and not without some bitterness, that Lebanon is willing to station almost anyone in the south, except for Haddad himself. The Jerusalem sources add: We have made enough concessions. We will not back down from the demand concerning Haddad's status.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, then, will not be able to report to the Cabinet on progress in the negotiations, and without movement in the talks, the Cabinet will not have to make any new decisions. Meanwhile, several ministers this morning sharply criticized the way the negotiations are being conducted. One of them said that in the past Ari'el Sharon clashed with the Americans every inch of the way, and now Shamir accepts their positions without opposition. Neither of these ways will win achievements for Israel.

Another minister said that Israel has wasted extremely valuable time and that we have backed down from nearly all of our demands without achieving our main goal: ensuring the withdrawal of the Syrians and the PLO from Lebanon. This criticism will apparently be voiced at this morning's Cabinet session.

Main Obstacle to Talks

TA270543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Another step will be taken today in the negotiations with Lebanon. Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib will bring new Lebanese proposals to Jerusalem today and will try to break the deadlock that has beset the talks over a settlement in Lebanon since last week. Prior to that, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will report in the Cabinet session about the state of the talks. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports:

[Golan] The main obstacle in the present round of mediation by Habib was and still is Major Haddad's status. Israel is demanding his appointment as commander of the Lebanese Army in the security strip in the south, while Lebanon is opposed to this. Beirut is willing to incorporate Haddad's men into the army and even appoint one of his aides commander of the area, but not Haddad himself. This is the scenario as it emerged at the end of last week in Jerusalem.

At this morning's Cabinet session, which is supposed to be shorter than usual, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will submit reports. A meeting will then be held with envoy Habib, in which Lebanon's proposal will be presented officially. It should be noted that Israel regards the ensuring of Haddad's control of southern Lebanon a necessary guarantee for securing its northern border and the entire Galilee.

Another question the U.S. envoy will be asked today is whether there is anything new in Syria's position regarding a troop withdrawal from Lebanon. At the previous meeting in Jerusalem on Wednesday, Habib reported that the Lebanese are discussing this with the Syrians and that their impression is that Damascus will agree to withdraw its forces simultaneously with Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Another subject that will be raised in the talks with Habib is the condition of our prisoners being held by the PLO and the Syrians. Last week Habib promised to deal with this matter also, and Israel, it has been often said, will not let up on this matter.

HADDAD INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON SITUATION

TA271251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Interview with Major Sa'd Haddad by Hayim Hecht on 26 March; place not given]

[Text] I stand by my declaration that if Sa'd Haddad, the man, is blocking the achievement of a settlement between Lebanon and Israel then Sa'd Haddad will leave the state and go home. Major Haddad told me this last night, and his confident expression showed that he does not think that he will indeed have to honor this commitment soon. Notice, he says, the source of the headlines and statements that the only obstacle on the way to a settlement is Haddad's status. Everything originates with U.S. circles, he pointed out. Have the Syrians and terrorists already withdrawn? he asked rhetorically. The preoccupation with Haddad is an obvious U.S. strategem, and you, he said addressing Israel, must be vigilant because the Americans are preparing a very dangerous concoction for you.

[Haddad -- in English] I think they are not telling exactly what is going on in these negotiations. But whatever will be, I advise our government and our negotiators to know what is good for Lebanon and to say it. What they are asking now -- they are asking what is good for America, and that is an American request what they are asking. It is not a Lebanese request, knowing that the main danger existing against Lebanon is the Syrian presence and terrorist presence in the north and the Al-Biqa'. And nobody is talking about it. It is like they are put in a small pocket that they are going to withdraw.

What they are trying to achieve during this negotiation is a kind of play to take me out from the south and purposed to cut the relations with Israel in the future. And afterwards, I am sure, that if the relations with Israel are out, Lebanon will be lost.

[Hecht] Haddad emphasized that he was saying this as a Lebanese patriot who had shed blood for his country's flag.

What proposals have you received from the government in Beirut as an alternative to your presence in the south, I asked him. Had he met Amin al-Jumayyil's representatives?

[Haddad -- in English] I don't like to comment on this. No comment on this because it is, you know, a sensible question. But I am sure they are with me.

[Hecht] At this point one of the major's aides interrupted, offering commentary from a nonpolitical viewpoint. Haddad does not have a common language with the politicians in Beirut, he said. They speak to him in money and millions of dollars, and the strange officer from the south answers them in the currency of patriotism, sacredness of the flag, and security, he said. Whoever sees the austere home where Haddad lives in Marj 'Uyun, he concluded, will understand that the major has nothing to look for in Beirut.

While the media headlines continue to deal with Haddad's future, he is mostly busy these days with the continued enlistment of men for his army, competion of training, and solving ongoing security problems. I asked him how he explained the increase in the terrorist actions in the south over recent weeks.

[Haddad -- in English] By money you can buy many people in Lebanon. Unfortunately, that is a sin; it is not patriotism. And the borders or the lines are open in our area and the Al-Biqa' and the north, so the Syrians and the terrorists they can buy people, they can pay them, and they can make these terrorism actions.

[Hecht] We are preparing ourselves to deal with the problem, he promises. What is the meaning of the Shi'ite demonstrations last week, I asked him. Were they a protest against your status in the south?

[Haddad -- in English] One extremist -- a Khomeyniite and a terrorist, you can put them on the same side -- but he doesn't represent the major part or opinion of the Shi'ites. The majority of the Shi'ites are against it. They want peace, they want confidence, they want prosperity, they want to take care of their own life, and they are with us.

[Hecht] The cause of the demonstrations is one agitator in Jibshit village, a terrorist and a Khomeyni follower, who neither represents people nor views of the Shi'ite community. Most of the Shi'ite in the south want peace, quiet and security which means they are on my side. While the midday press headlines hint of a new Haddad, the old Haddad demonstrates in southern Lebanon leadership, authority, and a good deal of confidence.

IDF, MARINE OFFICERS MEET TO EASE TENSIONS

TA241823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of Israel's forces around Beirut, Brigadier General Amnon Lipkin, met today with the commander of the U.S. Marine contingent of the multinational force, Colonel James Meade, and the two commanders agreed on measures to avoid future confrontations between their troops.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut said the two sides also agreed to establish an additional channel for communication to be used for sharing operational information. But the embassy stressed the mission and role of the American contingent has not changed in any way as a consequence of the meeting.

IDF COMMANDER SPEAKS ON TERRORISTS, MARINES

TA241519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of the IDF in Lebanon, Brigadier General Amnon Lipkin, has said that the terrorists who attack IDF soldiers come from behind the Syrian lines and from West Beirut from the region under the control of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force [MNF].

At a meeting with foreign correspondents in the IDF spokesman's office in (Yarzah) in Lebanon, Brig Gen Lipkin said that the terrorists were members of the PLO and most of them were members of the Fatah organization headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

He said that during the last 4 weeks seven or eight ambushes had been set in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded. He refused to say how many of the attackers or other suspects had been arrested.

In reply to a question, he said that the IDF would not enter West Beirut during the pursuits after the attackers and added that keeping the security in Lebanon was not easy work, but not an impossible task.

Brig Gen Lipkin made hinted criticism against the U.S. Marines and the other units in the MNF, saying that he felt that more could be done to prevent those attacks. He noted that the IDF soliders had grave orders to avoid any confrontation with the soldiers in the MNF and he hoped that relations with them would improve.

LEBANON SAID TERMINATING ADF MANDATE 31 MAR

TA251256 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The Lebanese Government has reportedly terminated the mandate of Syria's Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] in Lebanon as of March 31st. This is reported by the leftist Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR. The paper quotes diplomatic sources as saying that the Lebanese Government sent a note to the Syrian Foreign Ministry and the Arab League Secretariat in Tunis terminating the force's mandate. AS-SAFIR said it could not be determined whether the note had actually requested a prompt Syrian pullout on the mandate's termination.

There has been no confirmation of the report from either the Lebanese or Syrian Governments. The Arab League originally sent the Syrian Army into Lebanon in 1976 to police the civil war armistice between Christian and Muslim militia. The mandate was periodically renewed by the Arab League, but the last 6-months term of the force expired last July and has still not been renewed.

SOVIET EXPERTS MEET WITH LEBANESE OFFICIALS

TA261959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1929 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Four Soviet experts came today to Dohur ash-Shuwayr near Bikfayya east of Beirut, which is the village in which the family of Lebanese President al-Jumayyil lives, and met there with senior officials in the Lebanese administration. This was discovered by our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden.

Our correspondent also found out that Soviet experts are currently building a big military site near the town of Jubayl north of Juniyah, in Lebanon.

IDF, SYRIAN TROOP BUILDUPS REPORTED IN AL-BIQA'

TA261221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] There are reports of a military buildup in the Al-Biqa' Valley. The ASSOCIATED PRESS reports that Israel and Syria are pouring troops into the valley with no sign of men or equipment leaving the area as would be the case in normal troop rotations. Israeli jets have reportedly broken the sound barrier in frequent flights over the Al-Biqa' Valley.

SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WITH SYRIA DEEPENS

Soviets Predict War

TA261234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] A Soviet official at the United Nations has predicted that war will break out between Israel and Syria this spring and that Israel is planning to attack Jordan. The prediction came in the form of a briefing by an unnamed senior Soviet official to the members of the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations. The report was published in today's edition of the Cairo weekly OCTOBER magazine.

According to the Soviet official, both Israel and Syria want war: the Syrians in order to test out their new Soviet arms, including the SAM-5's and to break out of their isolation; Israel allegedly wants to win another triumph of American arms over Soviet arms. According to the report, Israel's defense minister, Moshe Arens, is more hawkish on the question of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip than his predecessor, Ari'el Sharon. He is allegedly planning an attack on Jordan to create a new reality on the question of the territories, said the Soviet official.

Shamir Comments

TA251[illegible].4 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent]

[Text] To a large extent, the Russian entrenchment in Syria is a reaction to the large U.S. involvement in Lebanon. The central role currently played by the United States in Lebanon contrasts the extent of its involvement in that country in the 7 years that preceded the Peace for Galilee war. These remarks were included in a briefing to members of the Bonds' "Enterprise Campaign" by Foreign Minister Yitzhaw Shamir yesterday.

The foreign minister also said that the fact that the United States is a superpower in the Middle East is a result of Israel's existence and the Peace for Galilee war. There are sometimes differences of opinion between Israel and the United States but both countries are friends and allies. The foreign minister said that the world is conducting some sort of "lottery" around the question of whether Husayn will join the peace talks with Israel. He pointed out that the only existing framework for the integration of Jordan into the negotiations is the Camp David framework. The Israeli position on this issue is clear: "We are ready to negotiate without any preconditions," Shamir concluded.

ALGERIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY LIBYA'S MAJOR JALLUD

26 March Arrival

LD261322 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the People's General Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Algiers this morning on a visit to our country.

He was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by the Minister of the Interior M'hamed Hadj Yala and by the ambassadors of both countries.

Meeting With Bendjedid

LD261638 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 26 Mar (JANA) -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud had a long meeting on his arrival this morning in Algiers with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Present at the meeting were 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, and on the Algerian side, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia member of the Politicai Bureau and official responsible for the FLN General Secretariat; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; and Mr Mohamed Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau and minister of the interior.

27 March Departure

LD271437 Algiers APS in English 1324 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 27/3/83 (APS) -- Commander 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, minister of the direction of the Libyan revolution, left Algiers after a short visit.

Mr Jallud said in a statement to the press, he was satisfied with the results of his visit which dealt with bilateral cooperation and matters of common interests.

He added moreover that talks held with president Chadli Bendjedid and Mr Cherif Messaadia enabled to note an identity of views on questions related to the Arab Maghreb and Mashriq.

Mr Jallud was seen off by Messrs Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the CC Permanent Secretariat and M'hamed Hadj Yala, home minister.

Agreement Signed

LD272050 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 27 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 27 Mar (JANA) -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the accompanying delegation concluded their visit to Algeria, which took place within the framework of the revolutionary unionist meetings between the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the Algerian revolution.

Soon after his arrival in Algiers yesterday, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud held a long meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid. He also held a meeting with delegations of the two countries yesterday evening.

During this visit, the minutes of an agreement were signed containing an action program based on holding a dialogue between the two revolutions and coordinating their efforts of reverting to the masses to confront the imperialist onslaught on the Arab nation; and to make intensive efforts to unite the confrontation front -- which consists of Syria, the Palestinian organizations and the Lebanese patriotic movement -- based on resisting the common Zionist enemy.

The minutes of the agreement also call for coordinating action between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria on the African Continent and in the OAU, and for resuming the integrationist and unionist action between the two fraternal countries based on the following points:

1. Convene a meeting of the General People's Congress and the National People's Assembly as agreed, to take place in Tripoli.

2. Continue the meetings of the Jamahiriyah General People's Committee and the Algerian Council of Ministers.

3. Continue the meetings of the specialized subcommittees that had been set up at the Algiers meeting on 3 April 1982 between the General People's Committee and the Algerian Council of Ministers. The General People's Committee and the Council of Ministers should convene a meeting as soon as the committees have concluded their meetings to approve the political, economic, cultural, and information merger program.

4. Arrange periodic meetings between the popular and mass organizations in the two countries.

5. Arrange periodic meetings between the Jamahiriyah's Revolutionary Committee and the Algerian FLN.

BENDJEDID SPECIAL ENVOY DEPARTS MOSCOW 26 MAR

LD261050 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar (APS) -- Lakhdar Ibrahimi, member of the Central Committee and adviser to the president of the republic, today left Moscow where, in his capacity as special envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party, he handed a message to the Soviet Government.

He was seen off at the airport by (Bijov), Soviet deputy minister for foreign affairs, and Messaoud Ait Chalal, member of the Central Committee and Algerian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Ibrahimi was received yesterday by Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the Soviet Union.

The development of the greater Arab Maghreb situation in addition to issues connected with the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East received special attention in the talks, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH SPAIN RELEASED

LD252112 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The official visit of Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra to Algiers 22-25 March at the invitation of the Algerian Government was concluded today with the release of an Algerian-Spanish joint communique which said in particular:

The talks took place in a frank and cordial atmosphere and allowed the two sides to strengthen and deepen the relations between the two countries and intensify bilateral cooperation.

Within the framework of this cooperation, the two sides reviewed the international and regional situation in general and bilateral relations.

Concerning international issues, the two sides highlighted the need to deepen the North-South dialogue for establishing a new international economic system that takes into consideration the basic problems of the developing countries and lays down the bases of an economic system built on the principles of justice, equality, and equilibrium.

The two sides touched on the tragic situation in the Middle East and expressed their conviction that a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the area demands the respect of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Regarding the Lebanese issue, the two sides affirmed the need for complete and unconditional withdrawal of the forces of aggression and guaranteeing the independence, sanctity, and sovereignty of Lebanon.

In discussing African issues, the two sides studied the situation in southern part of the African Continent and condemned the apartheid policy and the illegal occupation of Namibia. They reaffirmed their support for the cause of the Namibian people, who are fighting in the defense of their right to freedom and independence.

The two sides reaffirmed their joint will to work for turning the Mediterranean into an area of peace and cooperation for the benefit of the countries adjoining it, and to keep it from any foreign interference.

They expressed their conviction that settling the crisis that dominate this area is a basic condition for establishing peace, security, and stability in the Mediterranean.

Concerning the situation in the Western Sahara, the two sides affirmed that a just and peaceful solution is based on respecting the principles and resolutions of the UN and the OAU and on the exercise by the Saharan people of their right to self-determination. They expressed their readiness to undertake all necessary efforts to arrive at a settlement of this issue.

The two Algerian and Spanish sides exchanged viewpoints and studied ways to strengthen bilateral relations and contribute at the regional level toward establishing an era of peace and cooperation.

Regarding public work and construction, the two sides reviewed the current activity and studied developing technical and scientific cooperation through training, specialization of Algerian technicians in Spain, and sending Spanish experts to Algeria.

In the field of energy, the two sides studied the aspects of the contract under which Algeria has been exporting gas to Spain. They decided to negotiate at government level to find a satisfactory solution to this question as soon as possible. They set time limits for arriving at a settlement and drew up a timetable for meetings, the first of which will take place in Madrid on 7 April.

In the trade and industrial fields, the two sides analyzed the industrial projects presently under completion in Algeria, in which Spanish companies are participating. They decided to draw up the basic principles for economic and trade cooperation between themselves and undertook to begin work for realizing a balance in trade exchanges between the two countries on the basis of integrating the two economies.

The two sides believe that their cultural and artistic cooperation should reflect the quality of their political relations and express the abundance of their historical ties.

The two sides therefore have prepared a broad program for cooperation in various fields, particularly film festivals and exchange fairs, research in archeology, repairing historical monuments of the Islamic era, and granting scholarships and exchanging researchers between the centers and universities of the two countries, especially in the solar energy, oceanography, and geology fields.

The two sides, which are preoccupied with strengthening and consolidating cooperation at the bilateral or international levels, agreed to organize regular meetings at various levels to exchange their viewpoints and coordinate their work in the fields of mutual interest.

LIBYA

ENVOY OF GHANA'S RAWLINGS DEPARTS AFTER TALKS

LD261228 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) -- Captain Kojo Sikata, special adviser of the Ghanaian Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and personal envoy of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the PNDC, and the accompanying Ghanaian delegation which included Dr Kwesi Botwe, minister of finance and economic planning, and Appiah Korang, minister of fuel and power, has left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during which he held a series of talks on strengthening cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Ghana.

In a statement to JANA at Tripoli international airport Capt Kojo praised the people of the Jamahiriyah's achievements in various fields thanks to the Great Al-Fatin Revolution. He also expressed his deep satisfaction with the results of his and the accompanying delegation's visit to the Jamahiriyah. I was entrusted by Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings to deliver a message to the brother leader pertaining to the bilateral cooperation between the two revolutions. [passage indistinct]

LEADER RECEIVES POLISARIO HEAD ABDELAZIZ

LD251520 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 11, Mar 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The revolution's leader received Mr Mohanmed Abdelaziz, the president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and secretary general of the Polisario.

UN GROUP PROTESTS U.S. RESTRICTION ON STUDENTS

LD261620 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 12, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Jamahiriyah delegation at U.N.E.S.C.O. objected against the repressive resolution taken by the U.S. Administration which prohibits the Jamahiriyah students from continuing their education in the U.S. in advanced technology.

The written protest which was distributed to U.N.E.S.C.O.'s permanent delegates asserted that this racist decision constitutes a flagrant violation of the declaration of human rights and U.N.E.S.C.O.'s own charter. It added that it discloses the barbarism and decline of the U.S. Administration and its negligence of the natural rights of man to acquire knowledge.

The Libyan U.N.E.S.C.O. delegate said that the Arab group who met upon the request of the Jamahiriyah delegation has decided to inform the U.S. U.N.E.S.C.O. delegation of its own objections.

In a statement to A.F.P. the Libyan delegate pointed out that the resolution, which will affect about 500 of the Jamahiriyah students studying in the U.S. is an inhuman and contradicts international norms which guarantee of education and equal opportunities irrespective of race or religion. He said: "This decision constitutes a breach of the international declaration of human rights [words indistinct] U.N.E.S.C.O. constructive work.

He added that despite this [word indistinct] move by the U.S. Administration the Libyan Arab people have not taken at any time any measures against American citizens in the Jamahiriyan on humanitarian and moral considerations.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES 'ARAFAT 26 MARCH

LD262335 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received this evening at the Royal Palace in Fes Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who had arrived in Fes earlier this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr M'hamed Boucetta, and on the Palestinian side by Mr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, and Abu Marwan [Fawwaz Yasin], PLO representative in Rabat.

TUNISIA

'ARAFAT TALKS WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR 25 MAR

LD261256 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 26 (MAP) -- Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) received the ambassador of Morocco to Tunisia, Mr. Mohamed Tazi on Friday in Tunis.

Talks focused on the latest developments in the Arab world and the consultations under way between Morocco and the countries which are member of the committee of the seven in anticipation of the meeting the committee is to hold April 3 in Morocco.

During this meeting, the committee will assess the outcome of its contacts with the permanent member countries of the United Nations Security Council to explain to them the peace plan that was adopted by the Arab summit last September in Fes.

In a statement to the press, the Moroccan ambassador said that Mr. 'Arafat had expressed his thanks to King Hassan II for his continued efforts in favor of the Palestinian cause. He added that the Palestinian leader grants a particular interest to the latest developments in the Maghreb Arab region and to the outcome of the historical meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and between the Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Mr. Bendjedid.

Mr. 'Arafat, said the Moroccan ambassador, considers that these contacts would further strengthen relations among the countries of the Maghreb and would also strengthen the Palestinian cause.

S. AFRICA-ANGOLA TALKS SET FOR 'NEXT WEEK'

MB251753 Windhoek Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Angola has warned UNITA that it could jeopardize the talks with South Africa on South-West Africa through its actions. According to the Angolan official news agency, ANGOP, South Africa must stop using UNITA as its military wing in Angola, otherwise the talks held in the Cape Verde Islands will be doomed to failure.

The second round of talks between South Africa and Angola were held last month on Cape Verde, and according to Western diplomats, it was tentatively agreed that the next round of talks would take place next week. According to ANGOP, the talks are aimed at ending the crisis in the region and at investigating possible ways to ensure peace and security in the region. ANGOP says that Angola's only [word indistinct] and negotiations is to bring about the swift withdrawal of South African soldiers from the Cunene Province in the south of Angola and to speed up the independence process of South-West Africa.

ANGOP emphasizes that the ruling MPLA party in Angola will never agree to hold talks with UNITA. The news agency has rejected possible power sharing by UNITA and the MPLA.

ANGOLA

UNITA RADIO REPORTS MILITARY SUCCESSES

MB260830 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 25 Mar 83

[UNITA radio]

[Text] In the honorable fulfillment of the noble duty of freeing the fatherland from traitors, caudillos, and Russian and Cuban invaders and imperialists, the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] under the wise leadership of their supreme commander, Comrade President Dr General Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, carried out a number of combat operations between 15 and 28 February 1983, from which we point out the following:

Bie Province. On 22 February 1983 our special commandos attacked an enemy garrison at the water tank which supplied the Benguela railway line at (Capeio). Twelve members of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] were killed, and nine individual weapons were captured. The water tank was destroyed.

On 24 February 1983 UNITA forces attacked an enemy company on the bridge over the (Kukema) River between Camacupa and (Ringoma). Thirty-nine FAPLA soldiers were killed, and 17 weapons were captured. The bridge was completely destroyed.

On 26 February 1983 the enemy position at (Chibaur) was taken by storm. Forty-seven FAPLA soldiers were killed, and 23 individual weapons, 1 B-10 cannon, 1 14.5-mm antiaircraft weapon, 1 (grad UZ's), 2 60-mm mortars, 2 82-mm mortars, 8 ammunition boxes, 240 antipersonnel mines, 211 assorted shells, and 3,847,421 cuanzas in currency were captured. A total of 602 civilians were released.

Huambo Province. On 18 February 1983 an enemy battalion reinforced by a Cuban platoon, which had stopped at (Camuenho) village in order to attack our areas, was completely annihilated by our compact guerrillas forces. Forty-two FAPLA soldiers and two Cubans were killed.

Our forces captured 36 (?Czechoslovak AK's), 3 (AKV's), 6 FN's, 2 Soviet Mausers, 7 (FVD's), 4 RPD's, 2 60-mm mortars, 1 B-10 cannon, 1 .30-caliber, 4,864,899 rounds of ammunition of different calibers, 360 assorted shells, and a large quantity of combat rations.

A FAPLA officer by the name of (Adriano Nito), 23 years old, was captured, and 231 civilians were released.

On 23 February 1983 UNITA forces occupied the enemy barracks of (Gombe), (Bundo) area. Twenty-one FAPLA soldiers and two white Portuguese were killed. Our forces captured 3 German Mausers, 12 Hungarian AK's, 6 Russian Mausers, 2 82-mm mortars, 1 76-mm cannon, 1 [word indistinct] bazooka, 4 RPG-7's, 3 RPG-2's, 57 defensive handgrenades, 2 radio transmitters, 8 boxes of medicine, and 87,847 rounds of assorted ammunition. Two Landrovers, four (FAR's), one KR-AZ, and three Zils were burned.

On 24 February 1983 UNITA forces attacked an enemy column between Vila Flor and Huambo. Three Urals, two Zils, one GAZ-66, one Landrover, and two Scania fuel tanks with fuel were destroyed. Fifty-nine FAPLA soldiers, and two Portuguese drivers were killed. The column leader, a white person whose nationality we could not identify, was also killed. No materiel was captured, since everything was burned.

On the same day a Cuban BTR [armored personnel carrier] attached to FAPLA Battalion 86 detonated an antitank mine our forces had laid 3 km from Sambo. Our forces killed three Cubans, and two were wounded. According to our cells in the area, the latter died at the Huambo military hospital. Captain Marques, chief of General Staff of FAPLA Brigade 45, was seriously wounded.

Moxico Province. On 27 February 1983 our glorious FALA attacked the enemy at the source of the (Chilndengue) River, in (Macojune) area. Sixteen soldiers were killed, and one border guard was captured. Our forces captured 9 AK's, an ammunition box, 18 shells, 14 antipersonnel mines, and 14,879 cuanzas.

On 28 February a FAPLA company and Cuban section traveling from Cazomobo to Macondo were repelled between the (Zinhavo) and (Malengo) Rivers. Thirty-nine FAPLA men and three Cubans were killed. Four AK's two G-3's, one FN, one 82-mm mortar, three .30-calibers, three (3km's), one RPG-7, and assorted ammunition and shells were captured. Six vehicles were burned.

Malange Province. On 22 February an enemy motorized column was attacked on the Capenda Camulemba-Cacolo road, 3 km from Cacolo. Six vehicles were destroyed. Thirty-seven FAPLA men and four Cubans were killed. Seventeen AK's, 3 (BKM's), 3 RPG-7's, 1 bazooka, 1 12.7-mm antiaircraft weapon, 4 82-mm mortars together with 120 shells, 12 ammunition boxes, 1,248,796 cuanzas, uniforms and several important documents were captured. The same column was going to rebuild the bridge over the Cuilo River, which was destroyed by UNITA forces on 16 December 1982. The survivors returned to their place of origin. The enemy plan has therefore failed.

Cuanza Sul Province. On 25 February FAPLA and Cuban forces traveling from (Cucundo) to launch an offesive against our areas were counterattacked in the (Cundi) area, 35 km from (Gungo). Seventy-two FAPLA men and 16 Cubans were killed. Eleven vehicles [words indistinct] logistics were burned. Meanwhile, the enemy has deployed its forces in the areas to protect the helicopters which are evacuating the wounded and carrying the dead.

On 28 February 1983 there was a mobilization meeting at Cabuta, north of Calulo, in which 981 Peoples Defense Organization [ODP] members and several FAPLA officers took part. On the following day 41 ODP surrendered to our forces in the area. They were looking for freedom among UNITA forces.

Cuanza Norte Province. On 23 February 1983 a bomb that our sabotage experts had placed at the airport exploded aboard a plane between (Bundo) and Negage. All its occupants died. After investigations our cells at Negage reported to us that pilots (Paulo Borges do Espirito Santo) and (Carlos Alberto Modrado) had also died. Investigations are underway so that we can obtain details regarding their nationality.

Cuando Cubango Province. On 23 February 1983 sabotage on the landing gear of a Hercules C-130 resulted in the destruction of the aircraft. It was traveling from Menongue city. Twenty-eight people, including four Cubans and two Soviet pilots were killed. Our experts withdrew once the operation had been confirmed.

During this period we suffered four dead and nine wounded.

The fatherland is not negotiable. It is to be defended. (Kafundanga) is an example to follow.

The struggle triumphs. Only united around Comrade President Dr Savimbi will we win.

GOVERNMENT FORCES SPOT UNITA COLUMN, HOSTAGES

AB271308 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 27 Mar 83

[By Jean-Luc Porte]

[Text] Luanda, March 27 (AFP) -- Angolan forces tracked down a group of rebels escorting more than 80 hostages back to their base, but refrained from attacking for humanitarian reasons, reliable sources said here today. The hostages, who are in the hands of 800 guerrillas of the South African-backed Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are the 64 Czechoslovak and 20 Portuguese aid workers and their families captured at Alto Catumbela on March 12.

Sources said the hostages included 22 children and 17 women, and the column was moving at less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) per day. It would take more than a month to get from Alto Catumbela in western central Angola to its apparent destination, a UNITA base in Cuando Cubango Province in the southeast. The sources said that after being spotted by an Angolan fighter plane on March 18, the column had been surrounded by government troops in moutainous territory 100 kilometres (65 miles) south of Alto Catumbela. UNITA warned a week ago that rescue attempts by the army would endanger the hostages' lives.

A reliable source said the captives were in good health but the walk of more than 1,000 kilometres (650 miles) would be exhausting, notably for the children. Forced marches during the rainy season are extremely difficult in the mountains the column will have to cross before reaching the semi-desert zones of Cuando Cubango. Observers said the guerrillas could split into smaller groups and move only at night. Former captives have said this was a common UNITA tactic.

UNITA also recently told the International Red Cross that it would hand over all the 22 children once they reached a secure base. A well-informed source said the Cuanda government was also trying to find a way to have the children released.

Czechoslovak authorities have also been lobbying hard, asking various countries and international bodies to act as mediators. Diplomatic sources said Prague's ambassador here, Milos Vesely, recently delivered a message from President Gustav Husak to Angolan leader Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Howev er, the government here has refused to negotiate with UNITA, and press tone has recently hardened with accusations that Western regimes are indirectly supporting UNITA by allowing its representatives to operate in their countries and by investing in South Africa.

UNITA's proposal to exchange some of its hostages for seven British mercenaries held in Luanda also threatens to have a negative effect. Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge had said in London in February the seven would be freed this year.

ANGOP WARNS AGAINST WESTERN 'INTERFERENCE'

AB242111 Luanda ANGOP in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 83

[ANGOP commentary: "Western Interference in Angola"]

[Excerpts] Luanda, 24 Mar (ANGOP) -- During an operation carried out in the districts of the Lupire commune, the Angolan Armed Forces dismantled a large force of puppets in Kuando-Kubango. The prisoners captured on that occasion asserted that they were trained by the South Africans and they accepted the link between the armed bands sowing death and destruction in certain parts of Angolan territory and the leadership of Pretoria.

In addition, in view of the large amount of Western war material and other documents seized and opportunely denounced, it was possible to note that the penetration of these enemy forces, whose access and logistic supplies are ensured by South Africa, falls within the framework of a vast imperialist plan aimed at acts of sabotage and destabilization in Angola.

Subsequent events have incontestably confirmed this truth, demonstrating that the infiltration of counterrevolutionary groups were marked by the interference of Western powers, their support to puppet groups, and their interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Angola.

In countries like the United States, Great Britain, and the Federal Republic of Germany, the forces conspiring against the Angolan Government carry out their subversive activities freely in the same way that they were denounced lately by the media in Portugal where these movements continue to employ pressure with the support of that country's authorities. The governments of these countries ignore the People's Republic of Angola's warning about the increasing recruitment of mercenaries in their territories, which constitutes complicity in a crime.

A few of the communication media of these countries even reach the point of transforming puppets into spokesmen. AFP for example, considered generally to reflect the French Government's policy, allows itself to publish long articles on the "anniversaries" of the Angolan puppet groups which represent nothing or no one and it offers them much space which it does not offer to the Angolan Government.

All these acts are directed against the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola and constitute a brutal and dangerous provocation.

It would be right to wonder if Angola, as a state which has since its foundation been faithful to other nations, to the just principles of independence, freedom, development, security, and peace, could not arrogate to itself the right to revise its relations with countries that do not respect the most elementary norms of international coexistence and whose interference in the internal affairs of Angola goes back to the time it became independent.

COMMENTARY REJECTS NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITA

AB251505 Luanda ANGOP in French 0925 GMT 25 Mar 83

[ANGOP commentary: "South Africa's Diplomacy of Maneuver"]

[Text] Luanda, 25 Mar (ANGOP) -- There is no longer any doubt that South Africa intends to use that puppet bunch of UNITA as its "Trojan horse" in the negotiations process initiated by the Governments of Angola and South Africa to outline ways of establishing a climate of peace and security in the southern part of the African Continent.

This is borne out by the fact that at this very moment when Angola and South Africa are trying to move toward the negotiating table to find a solution to the crisis raging in the region, "UNITA," armed and trained by Pretoria, is intensifying its sabotage activities against economic targets inside the People's Republic of Angola.

In its latest criminal activities -- an armed attack against the town of Alto Catumbela in the province of Benguela on 12 March -- a big paper manufacturing plant, including a people's shop [as received], and an electricity plant were partially destroyed. Besides these, several vehicles were burned, people's property looted and 86 Czechoslovak nationals, 28 male and 3 female technicians, 14 women who are wives of some of the technicians, and 21 children, as well as the management body of this large Angolan economic unit, were abducted.

Activities of this nature are contrary to South Africa's "readiness" to engage in conversation with Angolan authorities and could seriously compromise the spirit and nature of those very negotiations.

It is, however, clear that without the support of Western powers, through South Africa, "UNITA" dares not carry out its activities inside Angolan territory nor even to continue to destroy economic targets in Angola, kill and abduct defenseless people and foreign technical assistants and loot people's properties.

It should be made clear that for the negotiations to succeed, South Africa should stop using UNITA bandits as its armed wing and should withdraw its troops from the Angolan province of Cunene in order to accelerate the process of Namibia's independence based on UN Security Council Resolution 435/78.

However, while the process of restoring peace and security in southern Africa is underway, UNITA, true to its treacherous nature which in the past made it collaborate with the PIDE (Portuguese secret police) and with the colonial army, sheepishly lends itself to Pretoria's criminal intention.

In fact, it is obvious that behind the latest activities of the puppets is a South African maneuver, apparently pretending to withdraw from the game, while in fact, its "watchdogs" remain behind wishfully thinking that one day they will come and share the governing of Angola with the MPLA-Labor Party. In the final analysis, it is the "carrot and stick" policy to which Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues Tito referred.

Meanwhile, to allay the fears of anybody who expected the contrary, by sitting at the negotiating table with South Africa, Angola only wanted to accelerate the process for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people, so that South African soldiers would withdraw, unconditionally and as soon as possible from the Angolan province of Cunene, which they have been occupying for 2 years.

In any case, the illusion of the puppets has already been blurred in space and time. The Angolan people, from Cabinda to Cunene, under the leadership of their revolutionary vanguard -- the MPLA-Labor Party -- have always said and will continue to say "no" to negotiating with the puppet bunch, who have always been lackeys to the worst enemies of our people. And to the enemy, we shall never cede an inch of our land.

BOTSWANA

REFUGEE INFLUX FROM ZIMBABWE INCREASING

MB260655 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] The Botswana minister of information, Mr Kwelagobe, says the influx of refugees from southwestern Zimbabwe is increasing. The refugees are fleeing Matabeleland where government troops are fighting against dissidents loyal to Mr Joshua Nkomo. Mr Kwelagobe said Botswana would continue to accept the refugees, but warned the new arrivals not to contemplate any hostile acts against Zimbabwe.

He rejected accusations in the Zimbabwe press that refugee camps in Botswana are being used to lauched incursions against Zimbabwe. He said his government would pay the expense of anyone who could come and find evidence of any such activities.

COMOROS

AFP REPORTS CABINET RESHUFFLE 26 MARCH

AB261211 Paris AFP in French 1116 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Moroni, 26 Mar (AFP) -- A Cabinet reshuffle took place on Saturday in the Government of the Federal and Islamic Republic of the Comoros with the appointment of Omar Tamou, roving ambassador, as the minister of interior.

In this reshuffle, which is considered to be a technical rearrangement:

-- Said Mohamed Said Turqui, minister of justice [as received], becomes minister of equipment, environment, and town planning;

-- Mohamed Moumini, who was minister of equipment [as received], becomes minister of justice in charge of the civil service and social laws;

-- Yahaya Djamadar, secretary of state for civil service, becomes secretary of state for economy and finance, assisting Ali Nassor, minister of economy and finance.

The other members of the former government, which is presently composed of eight ministers and three secretaries of state, retained their portfolios.

LESOTHO

ARMED ATTACK ON BARRACKS; PROTEST SENT TO RSA

MB270631 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Last night Radio Lesotho reported that armed men had attacked the barracks of Lesotho's paramilitary force at the Ongeluksnek border post in the southern district of Quthing.

The radio said that Lesotho's minister for foreign affairs had sent a strongly worded protest note to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria after the attack. No details were given in the note, but it said the attack had taken place from 1000 until 1600 and that it had come from the South African side of the border. South Africa was asked to take quick action to stop the hostile acts, which the report said did not promote good neighborliness.

'Saboteurs' Arrested; Attack Repulsed

MB271342 Maseru Domestice Service in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The joint police/Lesotho paramilitary force command has announced that it carried out successful operations against saboteurs who were attempting to blow up electrical installations in Maseru last night. Six of the saboteurs were arrested. A large quantity of detonating equipment has been removed. It is also reported that an unspecified number of South African police, who are alleged to be connected with the attack and sabotage plots, had been arrested and are under questioning. It is not known whether South Africa will confirm the mission as having been authorized or not.

In what looks to have been an attempt to open fronts at strategic corners in Lesotho, the police paramilitary command has confirmed that armed infiltrators were repulsed back into South Africa at (Bheka) in northwest Lesotho and that in the Leribe District a Roman Catholic mission at Pitseng came under grenade attack. The mission is not far from Teyateyaneng where in the last few days incendiary bombs were thrown into the homes of government party supporters. In the attack on the Catholic mission a member of the Lesotho paramilitary force was killed while another was wounded but managed to engage a white man in heavy fighting from a limping position. The white man later managed to escape in a vehicle and headed toward South Africa. Police investigations are continuing. The papal pro nuncio in Pretoria has been instructed by the Lesotho Foreign Ministry to inform the secretary of state of the Holy See in the Vatican of the attack on the Leribe Roman Catholic mission.

Meanwhile, it is understood that yesterday's battle at Ongeluksnek was led by a Major (Mckenzie) of the South African Defense Force. As the South African side retreated, about 20 of their side were seen either dead or wounded. The Lesotho forces, who are under strict instructions not to imitate the South African strategy of hot pursuit, could not retrieve the dead bodies, as their members retreated with them under heavy fire. One of the bodies of the South African attackers who were killed in the encounter has been taken to a Lesotho Government mortuary.

A small paramilitary force unit based at Ongeluksnek, in the south of the country, successfully repulsed a machinegun and mortar attack from the South African side of the border at Matatiele. The attack started at 1000 in the morning and continued until late in the afternoon. Last night the Lesotho paramilitary force was continuing mopping up operations in which large caches of arms and ammunition, including machineguns, mortars, and rockets were captured.

The minister for foreign affairs yesterday sent a strongly worded protest note to South Africa on the attack. The message requested South Africa to take quick action to stop these hostile acts, which do not promote good neighborliness between the two countries. The Foreign Ministry said it held South Africa fully responsible for this act of aggression and retained the right to take whatever diplomatic and other action was available under international law to protect its independence and sovereignty.

MOZAMBIQUE

11TH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION RESOLUTION

EA261631 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] At the end of the proceedings of the 11th People's Assembly session, Deputy Mariano Matsinhe read out the resolution which reviewed the proceedings of the meeting.

[Begin Matsinhe recording] 1. Convened by the president of the republic, under the terms of Article 47 of the Constitution, the 11th Session of the People's Assembly was held between 21 and 22 March 1983. In conformity with the approved working agenda, the following issues constituted the themes of the session: assessment of the bill on the national system of education, assessment of the state central plan for 1983, assessment of the bill on the budget for 1983, assessment of the draft resolution on the ratification of the legislative acts of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly.

2. The final resolution of the 11th Session of the Frelimo Party Central Committee concluded that the conditions necessary for the assessment and approval of the law on the national system of education had been met. Accordingly, the assessment and approval of the law on the national system of education constituted the main theme. The Ministry of Education and Culture, fulfilling the guidelines of the third Frelimo Party congress on education, prepared a draft on general guidelines for the national system of education. The Ninth People's Assembly Session analyzed the draft and noted that the proposals therein harmoniously combined the dem ds of the (?main) growth of the country with the real existing capacities.

Reaffirming the popular and democratic character of the exercise of our power, the People's Assembly charged the Ministry of Education and Culture with organizing a broad debate to help the people understand the system and to register their views. The people positively welcomed the system because they regarded it as a powerful weapon with which to liberate themselves from famine, nakedness, disease, illiteracy, and obscurantism, evils which we inherited from colonialism.

It was the concern of this session to discuss the introduction of the national education system. In this context, important views were adopted on the implementation of the system accruing from the contributions by the masses, such as the need to create mechanisms to prevent students from giving up their studies and the urgency to give a new dynamism to the literacy campaign by making the students conscious of the importance of their role in the struggle against underdevelopment. Particular concern was voiced over literacy classes not being properly organized, the result of which was that people soon reverted to illiteracy.

Attention was drawn to the need for the practical application of the principle that the school is linked to the community as a way of making the community responsible for the better running of the school and to turn the school into a center for the dissemination of new ideas [words indistinct].

The People's Assembly stressed the need to enlighten officials in charge of education on the significance of free compulsory education and what it represents in economic and human terms by making them assume a more positive role in the monitoring of and help they should give our children, thereby averting needless regressions and failures. Emphasis was laid on the issue of proper training for teachers in terms of their intellectual and moral responsibilities as educators, inasmuch as they perform the special duty of forming new generations. The introduction of new subjects in standard one [as heard] and changes in the school's timetable have been causing concern and raising question marks, which must be clarified to parents by those in charge of education.

The problem incurred by including national dialects in the process of training Mozambicans, which were raised at the 11th session of the party Central Committee, were also discussed during this People's Assembly session. The system must be the vehicle for promoting our cultural heritage by reaffirming our Mozambique personality.

The law on the national system of education was approved under the motto: Education is the task of all of us. This means that the people's assemblies at all levels must assume as their own task that of ensuring the successful implementaion of the national organs with the carrying out of specific tasks.

The 11th People's Assembly session also made a decision on the bill on the state central plan. The deputies noted that the plan was suffering from the effects of the international situation, particularly in respect to fuel and raw materials prices, exacerbated by the destabilizing actions perpetrated by South Africa through armed gansters and by the drought afflicting the country. The 1983 plan calls for efforts to be made in fully mobilizing existing agricultural resources and potentials. It calls first and foremost for a special effort to substitute imported raw materials and consumer goods by promoting exports and using and applying domestic raw materials. To achieve this aim improved correlation and control must be applied to the plan, particularly in transport, marketing, and supplies for the people.

To ensure self-sufficiency in food and ending famine, the country's plans will have to embrace the mobilization of local resources and the implementation of small-scale projects. At this difficult moment when our country faces a threat to standards of living, approval of the plan per se does not assure a response to the real needs of the various sectors of the community. The plan is dynamic [words indistinct] at the factory, farm, hospital, school, public services, barracks, People's Assembly, and in all sectors. It is fundamental that there must be coordination between all these social sectors.

The Assembly noted the need to combat departmentalism [departamentalismo]. To do so, each sector must adopt as its own the difficulties encountered by others. The plan is an integrated system and therefore each sector's weakness or mismanagement affects the others.

It was also noted that in order to ensure the fulfillment of targets, the best cadres and technician must leave their offices, and directly participate in the work of the production lines, for in the People's Republic of Mozambique, our primary aim is to fight famine. In implementing the plan and in our day-to-day decisions we can never lose sight of this aim, for in doing so we risk losing touch with the people's problems and consequently losing their trust.

The deputies approved the state central plan of 1983 conscious of the fact that its implementation will not be easy and that only with a patriotic spirit, selflessness, discipline, and hard work shall we be able to achieve the goals set out in it.

4. As for the state budget, the People's Assembly closely debated factors (?contributing to) our present economic and financial state. The international crisis affecting the capitalist system, manifesting itself as it does particularly in the rising cost of the equipment we must import for our factories and projects and the falling prices commanded by our principal exports products, is affecting our country too. Add to these factors the drought afflicting the whole of southern Africa and enemy action and you have the reasons why our country's financial situation is so delicate. We therefore need to apply greater dedication and commitment to work, organization, discipline, and more austerity in all sectors. Rigid controls must be set up to suppress abuses, misappropriation, irresponsibility, apathy, laziness, and waste.

The servicing of the debts of the state's economic units which used to be serviced mainly by the bank, has for the first time been included in the 1983 budget.

The budget law has as its main priority the allocation of financial resources to the defense and security sectors, followed by education and health in accordance with priorities defined by the party and state.

In response to our party's policy to give priority to the satisfaction of our people's basic needs, the budget law subsidizes the prices of basic commodities.

The People's Assembly has noted that the budget law now approved reflects in financial terms the state central plan for 1983. The duties of deputies and heads of state and local bodies of the state apparatus are:

To ensure strict observance of the guidelines drawn up in the budget law by the Council of Ministers and other bodies responsible for the implementation of the budget; to apply measures to improve management, so as to implement the budget efficiently and to fight abuses and misappropriation of state property; to apply measures to promote, activate, and appreciate voluntary work; and to make full use of people's efforts and initiative in the fight against smuggling.

5. During the process of approving the plan and budget laws, the People's Assembly was able to examine a number of factors affecting the efficient functioning of our economy, for example, projects undertaken without due consideration of the necessary conditions for their implementation, such as human and material resources, access roads and as [words indistinct] Mozambique technicians.

The 11th People's Assembly session noted that the deputies, as representatives of the people, must participate more actively in the country's economic life. As members of the working commissions of the People's Assembly, the deputies must participate in discussions with the bodies concerned with the planning and implementation of projects, drawing attention to the people's problems and immediate needs.

6. The fourth item on the agenda was the ratification of Law No 11/82 on Family Day [Christmas] and Law No. 1/83 amending Law No 2/79 on crimes against the security of the people and of the people's state.

The amendments to the law on crimes against the security of the people and of the people's state permitting us to punish more severely blackmarketeers and individuals who disturb social peace were touched on by Somora Machel in a very important address which gave the People's Assembly deputies a better understanding of the serious implications resulting from the diversion of products from the legal market. In simple and straightforward language, the president of the republic explained that the activities of criminals, blackmarketeers, armed robbers, rapists, and saboteurs were nothing new to our people. We have an historical account of deviations and infiltrations during the period of the armed stuggle for national liberation and after the achievement of independence. He also explained that these activities are an extension of the crimes committed by the armed bandits, who, with the backing of Pretoria, are trying to sabotage our development efforts and implant instability in our country.

He referred to ineffectuality in the exercise of power revealed through the inefficiency of the bodies charged with suppressing the activities of these antisocial elements. He stressed the importance of the newly approved law and the people's determination to win this yet another battle.

7. In its forthcoming session, the People's Assembly will examine its own activities. The deputies must be ready to present reports on their personal contributions to the solution of the people's problems, particularly in the elimination of famine. They must also present reports on the conditions of our people's life and on conditions prevailing in the areas where they live and carry out their work.

The People's Assembly meeting, in its 11th session, hails and pledges to implement the decision of the Frelimo Party Central Committee to make the year 1983 a year of production, defense, and strengthening our economy.

Thank you very much.

Maputo, 22 March 1983 [end recording]

Finance Minister's Address

EA251405 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Address by Finance Minister Rui Baltazar dos Santos Alves at 11th session of People's Assembly on 24 March -- recorded]

[Text] During our proceedings yesterday afternoon, we examined the economic and financial life of our country following the presentation of the state central plan and the bill on the state general budget for the year 1983, which were points two and three on our agenda.

We dealt first with the state central plan for 1983 presented by Planning Minister Mario Machungo. We briefly examined the implementation of the plan last year and our economic situation.

On examining the present economic situation we noted that in 1982 our country's economic development had grown at a slower rate than that which we had planned and which all of us approved here in the People's Assembly.

We noted that the main factors in the failure to fulfill our plan were: the effects of the world crisis in the capitalist economic system which seriously affect our economy; the prices of products we import which are becoming increasingly expensive, while our exports have very low prices; the effects of the undeclared war mounted against our country by the Pretoria regime; and natural disasters, especially the droughts, which have been the worst for 50 years. These are factors which had and, to a certain extent, continue to have extremely serious consequences for our economy. But they are not the only ones.

We had the occasion to refer to other factors at the internal level. The difficulties we face daily are to a great measure, the result of these factors at the internal level. We would like to cite some of the most outstanding examples: the lack of concrete understanding of the objectives of the plan, leading to the incorrect implementation of the plan; the absence of a prior estimate of the efforts needed to implement the plan; lack of awareness of the need to implement the plans which we ourselves have approved; diversion from the priorities defined in the plan and from the major fields of work; lack of coordination between structures and lack of control in the implementation of the plan, as relates to the distribution of products, their marketing and supply to the people; the diversion of efforts which should have been concentrated mainly on internal production but are wasted on various expensive visits abroad; the lack of concern in ensuring the existence of Mozambique cadres who should have been trained by the foreign technicians rendering services in a number of projects; the weakest individuals are the ones chosen for training; and the posting of technicians and directors to offices to produce a volume of paperwork without taking account of our concrete reality. These and other factors largely contribute to the very difficult situation being faced by our country.

The 1983 state central plan takes into account the combined effects of the national and international political and economic situations. The objectives of the plan are: to fight famine and banditry. The fulfillment of the tasks of the plan is the duty of all Mozambique workers, in particular the People's Assembly deputies and other [as heard] people's assemblies. That is why we have decided that deputies in their provinces, districts, towns, localities, wards, and villages must participate in the fight against famine. They must ensure their personal participation in the fight for food production.

We have decided that each and every deputy must understand the reality of the place where he or she lives; must know the main agricultural products and the production goals to be achieved for relation to each product; and register the type and number of production implements available and those required.

We reaffirmed that economic and social projects must result from concrete research work -- familiarization with the places where the projects are to be carried out, the provision of the necessary means and how we may obtain them. We must know when and where to build a road for distribution, when and where we need a mechanic, a welder, or a typist. We determined that we must carry out projects in an integrated way and with a definite goal.

We decided that in our activities there is one major goal that must be respected. Priorities are defined to ensure that tasks are implemented to achieve goals and our main objective is to eliminate armed and unarmed bandits and to overcome famine. Our priorities are agriculture, industry, foreign trade, ports and land transport.

We concluded that we must ensure the training of our best cadres for the implementation of our tasks. In this context, we once again stressed that we must organize the work of cooperants or foreign technicians in our country in order for them to carry out as a priority the training of Mozambique cadres.

Technicians must be placed where their know-how can be used -- in the production unit, farm, enterprise, hospital, school, and in the field of research. Directors must manage production; they must outstrip the unit they lead; they must work directly in priority places where famine is overcome, where the distribution of products is ensured, and where supply and consumption are carried out. They must work directly with the management and workers in the farms, enterprises, and cooperatives.

We considered it necessary to restructure the system of inspection and control, particularly in the economic field, so that tasks may be correctly implemented and their main objectives achieved.

On examining the draft law of the state central plan for 1983, we concluded that the organization of the 1983 state central plan and the success of its implementation depend mainly on the efforts of Mozambique workers, on redoubled efforts from us. It depends on how the People's Assemblies at every level, the Council of Ministers, the provincial governments, and executive councils lead, work, and exercise our power.

We approved the law of the state central plan for the year 1983. By approving it, we pledged to implement it. Let us, therefore, know how to fulfill this pledge. We then examined the 1983 general state budget. Presenting the draft budget law, I referred to the amount of revenue that the state must obtain and defined priorities in its allocation.

As concerns the allocation of state revenue, we noted that the budget law gives immediate priority to expenditure in the field of defense and security, the guarantor of our sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is because of the undeclared war situation which racist South Africa mounts against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

As a second outstanding priority, state resources are channeled to the education and health sectors. In this way measures are implemented for the improvement of the social conditions of our people.

The budget law for 1983 takes into account the introduction of the national education system throughout the country and provides for the expansion and improvement of health services. We noted that the state would spend 6.8 million contros on the education and health sectors, and this represents without doubt, significant advances in the life of our people.

I also pointed out that part of the budget revenue will be channeled to subsidize the prices of certain products, particularly maize, maize flour, rice, wheat, cooking oil, soap, fuel, and pesticides for household use. This is the system under which the state has to promote the redistribution of revenue, seeking to benefit our population with [words indistinct].

We also noted that there were a lot of shortcomings in the planning and financial control of state enterprises and bodies; proper management and financial control are on the whole not treated as a serious issue, thus giving way to laxity, abuse, and disorganization. There is connivance with thieves and saboteurs. There is premeditated action to facilitate the misappropriation and misuse of funds. And what is worse is that we remain indifferent to the misappropriation of state funds and property. We also become collaborators. We are forced therefore, through the state budget, to subsidize debts incurred by enterprises.

There are obvious factors and requirements for allocating subsidies to economic units, but a significant proportion is simply subsidizing disorganization, nonproductivity, tardiness, laxity, theft, and sabotage. It is our people's state that pays all this. What this means is that it is the money from people's taxes which is used to subsidize the actions of unarmed bandits infiltrated into state bodies.

During the debate to examine the 1983 budget law, Deputy Prakash Ratilal [governor of the Bank of Mozambique] referred to the illogicality of approving this law as it involved expenditures higher than the revenue the state will obtain. This will cause a serious situation which will have prejudicial effects on our society and on the process of organization and transformation of our economy. This will mean that the people will have money that they cannot spend because we do not produce enough.

We have seen that if there is more money than goods, blackmarketeering takes root and becomes widespread. This state of affairs provokes dissatisfaction, [word indistinct] social instability, and devalues our national currency, which thus ceases to be accepted as a means of exchange. We realized that it is only through the real development of our economy that we shall be able to overcome the financial difficulties confronting us. The additional resources we need will have to come from the mobilization of our own forces. The defense sector must produce its food resources. The schools have to produce to improve their diet and contribute products to national production.

There are other actions that must be implemented so as to improve the financial situation. We must pursue with greater vigor the political and organizational offensive with a view to eliminating bureaucracy, lack of initiative, apathy, sectionalism, officiousness, authoritarianism, and lack of coordination, which are still the characteristics of the state apparatus; lessening the enormous burden of the bureaucratic and administrative apparatus; improving the capacity of the productive apparatus; pursuing the building of a simple, operative, and functional state apparatus; and instituting a simplified administration.

We have to strengthen financial management and control so as to control expenditure and ensure the adequate utilization of the state monies by putting an end to thefts, frauds, embezzlements, and abuses, which are crimes that must be strongly punished.

We have to implement a severe regime to save, economize, and spare every cent, and to eliminate squandering in every possible field.

To practise austerity in a constant way is to channel each and every cent into the struggle against bandits and against hunger. Each metical saved strengthens our revolution. To be austere in every part of our life must be our way of living. With arduous work, sacrifice, austerity, organization, discipline, dedication to the execution of tasks, patriotic spirit, vigilance to detect and punish the abuses and embezzlements, we shall triumph. This is the path. Socialism is not built with laxity, squandering of resources, laziness, tardiness, carelessness, a spirit of drudgery and lack of concern. The state's monies are a fruit of the work and the contributions of peasants, and millions of Mozambique workers, and, as such, they must not be squandered arbitrarily.

We are in fact at war: against famine and against bandits. We realized that our economy has to be an economy which must not be diverted from our fundamental concerns -- banditry and famine. We cannot utilize our means and capacities to operate a bureaucratic state apparatus and to increase the salaries of parasites and corrupted people.

That was the work we did yesterday afternoon and the conclusions we drew.

SOVIET DIGNITARIES' VISITS REPORTED 25 MAR

Cooperatives Delegation Arrives

EA261628 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1500 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Central Consumer Cooperatives Union arrived in Maputo today for talks with the National Coordinating Commission of Consumer Cooperatives. In Maputo, the two sides will examine the practicalities of implementing the 3-year agreement signed last year during the visit to the USSR by a delegation from the National Coordinating Commission of Consumer Cooperatives.

Uzbek Minister Returns

EA262043 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic deputy minister of water resources returned to Maputo yesterday after a working visit to Nampula Province, where he familizarized himself with the activities of his country's foreign aid workers and toured a number of cotton production sectors, accompanied by Secretary of State for Cotton Joao Ferreira. It will be recalled that the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic deputy minister of water resources arrived in our country several days ago for talks with Mozambique officials on bilateral cooperation.